

The Full 1715

T R Y A L S,

Examination, and Condemnation

Of Four

Notorious **Witches,**

At the

Assizes held at *Worcester*, on *Tuesday* the 4th
of *March*.

*With the manner, how they were found guilty
of Bewitching several Children to Death.*

As also,

*Their Confessions, and last Dying Speeches at
the Place of Execution; with other Amaz-
ing Particulars concerning the said Witch-
craft.*

Printed according to Order.

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An Account of the Tryals, and Examination, and
Condemnation, of Four Notorious Witches, &c.

Some Wise Men in all Ages of the World, have been verily brought to believe the Account of Extraordinary Relations, especially about Witches and Witch-craft, but it is an open Violence, or at least a manifest injury, to common Sense, to condemn such Facts, as false, because some are so, at this rate all Criminals ought to be acquitted, because some have suffered undervaluedly: But that there are, and hath been Witches and Witch-crafts, many Authors have prov'd at large from Reasons, Scripture, Antiquity, and the Expearance of all Nations and Ages: The following Narrative coming to my hand I thought it might be acceptable to the Publick, Especially since Providence designs those Eminent Occurances rather for our Practical instruction than for a Subject of Notional Speculation.

On Saturday March the 5th the Assizes being then at Worcester, the Tryals of Rebecca West, Margaret Landis, Susan Cock, and Rose Hallybread, Four Notorious and Reputed Witches, came on for several Diabolical and abominable Practises, by Witchcraft and Fascination on the Bodies of Children and Cattle, &c. The Court being sat, Rebecca West was brought to the Bar, when after her Indictment was Read. John Edes was call'd as an Evidence against her, who Deposed that the said Rebecca West some Weeks ago Confess'd to him; that she had familiarity with the Devil, who came to her in the likeness of a young Man, promising her that she should be revenged on all her Enimies, and have what she desired, if she would deny God and wholly trust to him; and that the said Prisoner further told him, that upon request

ing the Devil to revenge her on one John Hart who liv'd in the same House, he quickly after Sickned and Dyed, so that she then thought he could do as God, and thereupon desired him to joyn in that Wicked and Develish Art, Mathew Hopkins, also deposed that the said Prisoner Confessed to him since in Prison, that the Devil came to her one Night as she was going to Bed, and told her he would Marry her, and that he then kissed her, but was as cold as Clay, and that he took her by the Hand and leading her about the Chamber a turn or two, he said they were Married, and promised to be her Loving Husband, and to avenge her of her Enimies; and that she sent the Devil to Kill the said John Hart, which was done accordingly. Thomas Hart Father of the Deceased Deposed that he verily believed that his Son dyed by Witchcraft, and that during his Torture he heard him cry out against Rebecca West; a Docter of Physick also spoke to the same Effect, as did several others; Upon which being asked by the Court what she could say for herself, she only alledged that her great Poverty had occasion'd all this, and pleaded guilty, desiring Mercy, but the Jury after having received their Charge, Imediately brought her in guilty of Murther and Witch-craft.

Then Margaret Landish, was brought to the Bar, and Arrain'd for Witch-craft, and Diabolical Sorcery, &c. The first Evidence deposed that about the 15th of December, as the said prisoner pass'd by his Door, a Child of his, then pointed at her, saying there goes pegg the Witch, upon which the said Margaret turn'd back and Clap'd her Hands in

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Threatning manner, telling her she should Sma-
it, and that very Night the said Child fell Sick in a
Raving manner, and dyed within three Weeks after.
Another Witness deposed, that the said Child, when
in its Violent Fitts, would often say that *pegg* the
Witch was by her Bed side, making strange Mouths at
her. Another Evidence deposed, that she once heard
the said *Margaret* say, that she could not enjoy her
Helth, if she did not send her Imps to do some Mis-
chief or another, and that her Imps did usually suck
two Teats near the privy parts, upon which the said
Evidence being asked how she got this Confession from
the prisoner, she reply'd that the said prisoner, did
use her Endeavours, to Intice her to be a Witch also,
by telling her that she should want for nothing, and
further added that she went with her to a Witches
Meeting, where she saw the Devil in the likeness of a
tall black Man, at which she was so much afrighted
that she never went with her any more. Ano-
ther young Woman spoke, partly to the same effect,
and that she was once with the said *Margaret*, and o-
ther, in Mr. *Burgvans* Orchard, consulting and plot-
ting the Childs Ruin; the Childs *Docter* also deposed
that she dyed of a *Distemper*, which was more than
merely Natural, and that she was under the Torture
of some *Diabolical* Agent: The prisoner in her own
defence, said that they were all Malicious people and
deny'd that she had Confessed any thing to the Evi-
dence, insinuating as if they had formerly an old
Grudge against her, and thereupon made a strange
Howling in the Court, to the great disturbance of the
whole Bench. Upon which the Court having ex-
plain'd

plain'd and Sum'd up the Evidence, told the Jury
that as they ought to beware of Condemning the In-
nocent, yet if they thought the Credite of the Evidence
sufficient in what they had deposed, their Eyes ought
not to spare her, adding that the Holy Scripture de-
clares, that we must not suffer a Witch to Live, Es-
pecially, when guilty of Murther Tortures, &c.
Whereupon the Jury after an Hours Consultation,
brought her in guilty.

Susan Cock, and *Rose Hallybread*, was next Arraigned
for Sorcery and Witch-craft, in Tormenting and
Murthring of *Mary Peak*, and *John Peak*, the Chil-
dren of *Obadiab Peak* of *Preston*; The chief Evidence
against them were *Abraham Ghad*, and *Elin Shearcroft*,
who deposed that they were present with the prisoners,
when they first attempted to Torment the said Chil-
dren; they being then going to enter into that devil-
ish way of practise, and being asked how they went
about such a damnable Action, they both were joint-
ly declaring the whole matter, but the Court caused
them to be Examined, apart and Seperate from one
another, to find whither their Evidence agreed: Where-
upon *Abraham Ghad* was Examined and the other
Evidence had out of the Court; at which time, he
the said, *Abraham* deposed that, in the Houle of *Su-
san Cock*, the two prisoners having made a great Fire,
they made the Shape of the deceased Children in Wax,
and putting them both on a Spit, one of prisoners
turn'd it, while the other Stuck pinns and needles in
their Bellies, Heads, and Eyes, and told him that as
the Fire wou'd waste, the Children wou'd waste, and
as the Spit were round, they both Muttered to them-
selves

selves strange kind of words, which he did not
 understand : He also Deposed that several
 Imps in the shape of Mice ran to and from
 Fire, and that the next day he heard his Neighbour
 hours discourse, how the Children were Tor-
 mented, with strange Prickings in their Eyes,
 Belly and Head, and so continued words, and
 words till they Dyed, which was about a Week
 after. *Elin Shearcrest* being call'd in, gave the
 very same Account, tho something more large
 and exact: The Father and Mother of the two
 Children said, that about the same time that
 the Evidence mention'd, they cry'd out against
 the said Witches by Name, and continually
 made complaints, as if Pins and Needles had
 been actually thrust into their Bodies, without
 Intermision for above an Hour together. A
 Midwife and other Women Deposed in Court
 that searching the Bodies of the Prisoners, they
 found several large Teates in the secret Parts
 of their Bodies : and at the same time asking
 them, how they came there, they both made
 Answer, that the Devils Imps had done it.
 However upon their Tryals, they deny'd
 each Particular, alledging that they were

en in their Sences, and seem'd both to weep
 and howl, tho not one Tear could be disco-
 ver'd to fall from their Eyes; many more
 Witnesses appeared against them, concerning
 the Bewitching Mr. Peaks Children, which
 for brevity sake I am forced to omit; but in
 fine it appearing on all hands that they had
 been very base and Notorious Persons, for
 several Years; and none appearing on their
 Behalfs. The Court sum'd up each Circum-
 stance with great care, tenderness, and Mode-
 ration, and deliver'd their Opinions to the
 Jury, with all the Legal Fairness, and Justice
 that could be desired, or expected, even from
 the Witches themselves, desiring God to di-
 rect them in their Verdict. However the mat-
 ter being proved against the Prisoners by un-
 answerable Demonstration, and undeniable
 Evidence, as well as Extraordinary Circum-
 stances, the Jury brought them in both guilty
 of Witch-craft, Fascination and Murther, and
 received Sentence to be Burnt at the Stake all
 four together.

When being come to the Place of Execu-
 tion, they made a strange and lamentable
 Yelling,

Yeling and Howling, after which they confessed the Crimes, for which they Suffered and also declared how they had Kill'd abundance of Cattle for several years past, and that it was extream Pride, Malice and Revenge that caused them to Enter into such a cursed and Hellish League with the Devil, who told them to the last, that he would secure them from Publick Punishment, but now to late, they found by a Lyer, as he was from the begining of the *Worship* *Cock* and *Landish* seem'd penitent, desiring all you Women to take Warning by their Devilish Lives, and Shameful Deaths, assuring the Spectators, that as Satan in the first Infancy of the World prevaile on a Woman to bring his Hellish attempts to pass, for still strives with that Sex, as the weaker Vessels Work their Distrustions; they both said the Lord's prayer very Distinctly, but *Rebecca West*, and *Hallybread* dyed very Stuburn, and Refractory without any remorse, or seeming Terror of Conscience for their abominable VVitch-craft.

I heavily wish the sad Fates of these Four Notorious, and Barbarous Wretches may be a warning to all Mankind, who sets them on Work, at last pays them the Wages of Eternal Damnation, which undoubtedly will be the portion of all those, who wilfully Engages in the Service of so faithless Master.

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