

C. 27. b. 35.

THE
WONDERFUL
DISCOVERIE OF THE

Witchcrafts of *Margaret* and *Phillip*

Flower, daughters of *Ioan Flower* neere *Beuer*

Castle: Executed at *Lincolne*, *March 11. 1618.*

Who were specially arraigned and condemned before *Sir*

Henry Hobart, and *Sir Edward Bromley*, Iudges of *Af-*

fise, for confessing themselves actors in the destruction

of *Henry Lord Rosse*, with their damnable practises against

others the Children of the Right Honourable

FRANCIS Earle of Rutland.

Together with the severall Examinations and Confessions of *Anne*

Baker, *Ioan Willmot*, and *Elles Greene*, Witches in *Leicestershire.*





THE WONDERFULL
DISCOVERIE OF THE

Witch-craftes of *Margraet* and *Phillip*

Flower, *Daughters* of *Ioan Flower*,

by *BEAVER CASTLE*, and ex-

ecuted at *LINCOLNE* the

II. of March.

1618.



Y meaning is not to make any contentious Arguments about the discourses, distinction or definition of Witchcraft, the power of Diuells, the nature of Spirits, the force of Charmes, the secrets of Incantation, and such like; because the Scriptures are full of prohibitions to this purpose, and proclaimes death to the presumptuous attemp-

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ters of the same: Besides both Princes (yea our owne learned and most iudicious King) Philosophers, Poets, Chronologers, Historiographers, and many worthy Writers, haue concurred and concluded in this; that diuers impious and facinorous mischiefes haue beene effectuuated through the instruments of the Diuell, by permission of God, so that the actors of the same haue carried away the opinion of the world, to doe that which they did by Witchcraft, or at least to be esteemed Witches, for bringing such and such things to passe: For howsoeuer the learned haue charactred delinquents in this kinde by titles of sundry sortes, and most significant attributes; as *Pythonisse* dealing with artificiall Charmes; *Magi* anciently reputed so, for extraordinary wisdom and knowledge in the secrets of simples and hearbes; *Chaldei*, famous for Astronomy and Astrology; *Necromancers* for practising to raise dead bodies, and by them to foretell euent of the earth; *Geomantici*, for conuersing with Spirits, and vsing Inchantations; *Geneth-*

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Genethliaci, for presuming on the calculating of Natiuities, or if you will, assuming the credit of Figure-casting; *Ventriloqui*, for speaking with hollow voyces as if they were possessed with Diuells; *Venefici*, for dealing with Poyson, and either killing or curing that way: For you must vnderstand howeuer the Professors aforesaid practise murder and mischiefe, yet many times they Pretend cures and preservation; with many others, carrying the shew of great learning and admired knowledge; yet haue they all but one famelier tearme with vs in English called Witches. As for the conceit of wisemen or wise woemen, they are all meereely coseners and deceiuers; so that if they make you beleue that by their meanes you shall heare of things lost or stolne, it is either done by Confederacy, or put off by protraction to deceiue you of your money.

Only (as I said before) there bee certaine men and women growne in yeares, and ouer-growne with Melancholly and Atheisme, who out of a malicious dispositi-

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on against their betters, or others thriving by them; but most times from a heart-burning desire of reuenge, hauing entertained some impression of displeasure, and vnkindnesse, study nothing but mischiefe and exoticke practises of loathsome Artes and Sciences: yet I must needs say, that sometimes the fained reputation of wisdome, cunning, and to be reputed a dangerous and skilfull person, hath so preuailed with diuers, that they haue taken vpon them indeed to know more then God euer afforded any creature, & to performe no lesse then the Creator both of Heauen & earth; making you beleue with *Medea*, that they can raise tempests, turne the Sunne into blood, pull the Moone out of her Spheare, and saile ouer the Sea in a cocle shell, according to the Poet.

Flectere si nequeam Superos, Acheronta monebo.

*If Art doe faile to moue the Gods
consent vnto my minde:*

*I will the Diuels raise, to doe
what they can in their kinde.*

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But howsoeuer speciall persons are transported with an opinion of their owne worth, and preuailing in this kinde, yet by lamentable experience we know too well, what monstrous effects haue bene produced, euen to the horror of the hearers, and damnation of their owne soules by such kinde of people: For as it is in the tale of the enuious man, that put out one of his eyes to haue his companion loose both; so fareth it with them and worse, to giue away their soules to bee reuenged of their aduersaries bodies, wherein the monstrous subtilty of the Diuell is so apparant, that it is wonderfull one way to relate, and lamentable another way to obserue the same. For no sooner shall such motiues poyson the inward conceite or apprehension of such damnable Caitiffes: But then steppeth forth the Diuell, and not onely sheweth them the way, but prescribeth the manner of effecting the same, with facility and easinesse, assuring that hee himselfe will attend them in some familiar shape of Rat, Cat, Toad,

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Bird, Cricket, &c : yea effectuuate whatsoeuer they shall demaund or desire, and for their better assurance and corroboration of their credulity, they shall haue palpable and forcible touches of sucking, pinching, kissing, closing, colling and such like : wherevpon, without any feare of God or Man, knowledge of Christ, hope of redemption, confidence of mercy, or true beleefe that there is any other thing to bee looked after but this present World ; according to that Athiesticall position of *Epicurus*.

Ede, bibe, lude, post mortem nulla voluptas.

*Eat, drink, sport, play and take thy pleasures rest:
For after death, who knowes what shall be best.*

They admit of those execrable conditions of commutation of soules for the entertaining of the spirits, and so fall to their abominable practises, continuing in the same till God laugh them to scorne, and will by no meanes suffer them to abuse his holy name nor deceiue others by their prophane liues
any

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any longer : Witnesse for the generall those infinite Treatises of many of them conuinc'd by Law, and condemned to death, to the fearefull example of all carnall and hypocriticall Christians : but more especially you may ouer-looke (if you please) that learned Discourse of *Demonologie*, composed in forme of a Dialogue, by the High and mighty Prince, *IAMES* by the grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland, &c.* and printed (as I take it) according to the cobby of *Edenburgh*, 1603. As also a Treatise of Witch-craft made by that learned Mr. *Alexander Roberts* Preacher at Kings-Line in *Norfolke*, 1615. vpon the discouery of the Witch-crafts of *Mary Smith*, wife of *Henry Smith* Glouer, with her vocall contract betweene the Diuell and her selfe, in sollemne tearmes, and such like imposturing filthinesse : with many hurts and mischiefes which thereby she procured : As also a certaine discouery 1611. made by *Iohn Cotta* Doctor of Phisicke in *Northampton* of Empericks, woemen about sicke persons:
Quack-

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Quackſaluers, and fugitiues, which ſeem to worke iuggling wonders, Surgeons, Apothecaries, practiſers by ſpells, the true diſcouery of Witch-craft, eſpecially in the ſicke with many inſtances in that kind, Wiſards, and ſeruants, of Phiſitions, who may bee called miniſtring helpers: To this hee hath added the *Methodian* learned deceiuer, or hereticke Phiſition, *Aſtrogers*, *Ephemerides*-maiſters, Coniecters by vrine, Trauellers, and laſt of all, the true Artiſt his right deſcription and election. As alſo a Dialogue concerning Witches and Witchcraft, compoſed by *George Gifford*, Miniſter of Gods word in Maldon, 1603. Wherein the cunning of the Diuell is diſcouered, both concerning the deceiuing of witches, and ſeducing of others into many great errors: As alſo an ancient diſcourſe of the fearefull practiſes of foure notorious French Witches, with the manner of their ſtrange execution. As alſo the ſeueral and damnable practiſes of *Mother Sutton* of Milton Miles in the County of Bedford, and *Mary Sutton* her Daughter, who

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who were arraigned, condemned, and executed for the ſame: As alſo 1612. the wonderfull diſcouery of Witches in Lancaſhire, being 19. in number, notorious for many infamous actions, and conuicted before Sr. *James Altham*, and S. *Edward Bromley*, Barons of the Exchequer, together with the arraignment and triall of *Iennet Preſton*, at Yorke, with her fearefull execution for the murdering of Mr. *Lisker* by Witch-craft; with infinite other relations concerning the generall conuiction of Witches, and their practiſes, and condemnation of the particular opinion of ſome men, who ſuppoſe there bee none at all, or at leaſt that they doe not perſonally or truly effect ſuch things as are imputed vnto them, and which out of ſome dangerous impreſſion of melancholly, vaine glory, or ſome other diſeaſed operation, they aſſume to themſelues by reaſon of a former contract with the Diuell. And ſo much for the certainty of Story, and fearefulneſſe of the truth concerning the damnable practiſes of Witches and cunning of the Diuell to deceiue them.

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But yet because the mind of man may be carried away with many idle coniectures, either that woemen confessed these things by extremitie of torture, or that ancient examples are by this time forgotten (although the particulars are vpon record, for the benefit of all posteritie:) Or that they were besides themselves, or subiect to some weake deuise or other, rather to bring in question the integrity of *Iustice*; then to make odious the liues of such horrible offenders. I haue presumed to present on the *Stage* of verity for the good of my Country & the loue of truth, the late wofull Tragedy of the destruction of the *Right Honourable* the *Earle of Rutlands* Children, who to his eternall praise proceeded yet both religiously and charitably against the offenders, leauing their prosecution to the law and submitting himselfe, and deplorable case to the prouidence of God, who afflicteth his best seruants with punishments, and many times, sendeth extraordinary vengeance as well on the innocent, as the bad deseruer, to manifest his glory.

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Therefore by way of Caution I aduise thee (gentle Reader) whosoever thou art, to take heede how thou doest either despise the power of God in his Creatures, or vilipend the subtilty and fury of the Diuell, as Gods instrument of vengeance, considering that truth in despite of gaine sayers will preuaile, according to that principle: *Magna est veritas & preualebit.*

The Story followes.

After the Right Honourable Sr. *Francis Manners* succeeded his Brother in the Earledome of Rutland: and so not onely tooke possession of Beauer Castle, but of all other his demeanes, Lordships, Townes, Mannors, Lands, and Reuennues appropriate to the same Earledome: hee proceeded so honourably in the course of his life, as neither displacing Tenants, discharging seruants, denying the accesse of the poore, welcoming of strangers, and performing all the duties of a noble Lord, that

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hee fastened as it were vnto himselfe the loue and good opinion of the Countrey wherein he walked the more cheerefully and remarkable, because his honourable Countesse marched arme in arme with him in the same race; so that Beauer Castle was a continuall Pallace of entertainment, and a daily receptacle for all sorts both rich and poore, especially such auncient people as neighboured the same; amongst whom one *Ioane Flower*, with her Daughters *Margaret* and *Phillp* were not onely relieued at the first from thence, but quickly entertained as Chair-women, and *Margaret* admitted as a continuall dweller in the Castle, looking both to the poultreys abroad and the wash-house within doores: In which life they continued with equall correspondency, till something was discovered to the noble Lady, which concerned the misdemeanour of these women. And although such honourable persons shall not want of all sorts of people, either to bring the newes, tales, reports, or to serue their turne in all offices whatsoever; so that it may well be

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bee said of them, as it is of great Kings and Princes, that they haue large hands, wide cares, and piercing sights to discover the vn-swept corners of their remotest confines, to reach euen to their furthest borders, and to vnderstand the secrets of their meanest subjects: yet in this matter, neither were they busie-bodies, flatterers, malicious politicians, vnderminers, nor supplanters one of anothers good fortune; but went simply to worke, as regarding the honor of the Earle and his Lady, and so by degrees gaue light to their vnderstanding to apprehend their complaints. First, that *Ioane Flower* the Mother was a monstrous malicious woman, full of oathes, curses, and imprecations irreligious, and for any thing they saw by her, a plaine Atheist; besides of late dayes her very countenance was estranged, her eyes were fiery and hollow, her speech fell and enuious, her demeanour strange and exoticke, and her conuersation sequestred; so that the whole course of her life gaue great suspition that she was a notorious Witch, yea some of her

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neighbours dared to affirme that shee dealt with familiar spirits, and terrified them all with curses and threatning of reuenge, if there were neuer so little cause of displeasure and vnkindnesse. Concerning *Margaret*, that shee often resorted from the Castle to her Mother, bringing such provision as they thought was vnbecfitting for a seruant to purloyne, and comming at such vnseasonable houres, that they could not but coniecture some mischiefe between them, and that their extraordinary ryot & expences, tended both to rob the Lady, & to maintaine certaine debaucht and base company which frequented this *Ioane Flowers* house the mother, & especially her youngest Daughter. Concerning *Phillip*, that she was lewdly transported with the loue of one *Th: Simpson*, who presumed to say, that shee had bewitched him: for hee had no power to leaue her, and was as hee supposed maruellously altered both in minde and body, since her acquainted company: these complaints began many yeares before either their conuiction, or publique ap-

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apprehension: Notwithstanding such was the honour of this Earle and his Lady; such was the cunning of this monstrous woman in obseruation towards them; such was the subtilty of the Diuell to bring his purposes to passe; such was the pleasure of God to make tryall of his seruants; and such was the effect of a damnable womans wit and malicious enuy, that all things were carried away in the smooth Channell of liking and good entertainment on euery side, vntill the Earle by degrees conceiued some mislike against her; and so, peradventure estranged himselfe from that familiaritie and accustomed conferences hee was wont to haue with her: vntill one *Peate* offered her some wrong; against whom shee complained, but found that my Lord did not affect her clamours, and malicious information, vntill one *Mr. Vauasor* abandoned her company, as either suspicious of her lewd life, or distasted with his owne misliking of such base and poore Creatures, whom nobody loued but the Earles

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household; vntill the Countesse misconceiuing of her daughter *Margaret*, and discouering some vndecencies both in her life and neglect of her businesse, discharged her from lying any more in the Castle, yet gaue her 40. a bolster, & a mattresse of wooll: commanding her to go home, vntil the slacknesse of her repaying to the Castle, as shee was wont, did turne her loue and liking toward this honourable Earle and his family into hate and rancor: wherevpon despighted to bee so neglected, and exprobrated by her neighbours for her Daughters casting out of doores, and other conceiued displeasures, she grew past all shame and Woman-hood, and many times cursed them all that were the cause of this discontentment, and made her so loathsome to her former familiar friends, and beneficiall acquaintance.

When the Diuell perceiued the inficious disposition of this wretch, and that she and her Daughters might easily bee made instruments to enlarge his Kingdome, and bee as it were the executioners of his vengeance; not

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not caring whether it lighted vpon innocents or no, he came more neerer vnto them, and in plaine tearmes to come quickly to the purpose, offered them his seruice, and that in such a manner, as they might easily command what they pleased: For hee would attend you in such prety formes of dog, cat, or Rat, that they should neither be terrified, nor any body else suspicious of the matter. Vpon this they agree, and (as it should seeme) giue away their soules for the seruice of such spirits, as he had promised them; which filthy conditions were ratified with abominable kisses, and an odious sacrifice of blood, not leauing out certaine charmes and coniurations with which the Diuell deceiued them, as though nothing could bee done without ceremony, and a solemnity of orderly rati-fication. By this time doth Sathan triumph, and goeth away satisfied to haue caught such fish in the net of his illusions: By this time are these women Diuels incarnate, and grow proud againe in their cunning and artificiall power, to doe what mischief they listed: By

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this time they haue learnt the manner of inchantations, Spells and Charmes: By this time they kill what Cattle they list, and vnder the couert of flattery and familiar entertainment, keepe hidden the stinging serpent of mallice, and a venomous inclination to mischief: By this time is the Earle and his familie threatened, and must feele the burthen of a terrible tempest, which from these womens Diuellish deuises fell vpon him, hee neither suspecting nor vnderstanding the same: By this time both himselfe and his honourable Countesse, are many times subiect to sicknesse and extraordinary conuulsions, which they taking as gentle corrections from the hand of God, submit with quietnesse to his mercy, and study nothing more, then to glorifie their Creator in heauen, and beare his crosses on earth.

At last, as mallice increased in these damnable Women; so his family felt the smart of their reuenge and inficious disposition. For his eldest Sonne *Henry Lord Rosse*

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Rosse sickened very strangely, and after a while died: his next named *Francis Lord Rosse* accordingly, was seuerely tormented by them, and most barbarously and inhumanely tortured by a strange sicknesse; not long after the Lady *Katherine* was set vpon by their dangerous and diuellish practises, and many times in great danger of life, through extreame maladies and vnusuall fits, nay (as it should seeme, and they afterwards confessed) both the Earle and his Countesse were brought into their snares as they imagined, and indeed determined to keepe them from hauing any more children. Oh vnheard of wickednesse and mischieuous damnation? Notwithstanding all this did the noble Earle attend his Maiesty, both at New-market before Christmas, and at Christmas at Whitehall; bearing the losse of his Children most nobly, and little suspecting that they had miscarried by Witch-craft, or such like inuentions of the Diuell, vntill it pleased God to discouer the villanous practises of these Woemen, and to command the Diuell

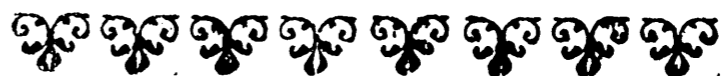
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from executing any further vengeance on innocents, but leaue them to their shames, and the handes of Iustice, that they might not onely be confounded for their villanous practises, but remaine as a notorious example to all ages of his iudgement and fury. Thus were they apprehended about Christmas, and carried to Lincolne Iayle, after due examination, before sufficient Iustices of the Peace, and discrete Maiestrates, who wondered at their audacious wickednes, but *Ioane Flower* the Mother before conuiction, (as they say) called for Bread and Butter, and wished it might neuer goe through her if she were guilty of that wherevpon shee was examined; so mumbling it in her mouth, neuer spake more wordes after, but fell downe and dyed as shee was carryed to Lincolne Goale, with a horrible excruciation of soule and body, and was buried at *Ancaster*.

When the Earle heard of their apprehension, hee hasted downe with his brother *Sr. George*, and somtimes examining them himselfe, and sometimes sending them to others;
at

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at last left them to the triall of Law, before the Iudges of assise at *Lincolne*; and so they were conuicted of murther and executed accordingly, about the 11. of *March*, to the terror of all the beholders, and example of such dissolute and abhominable Creatures, and because you shall haue both cause to glorifie God for this discouery, and occasion to apprehend the strangenesse of their liues, and truth of their proceedings: I thought it both meete and conuenient to lay open their own Examinations and Euidences against one another, with such apparrant circumstances, as doe not onely shew the cause of their mislike and distasting against the Earle and his family; but the manner of their proceedings and reuenges, with other particulars belonging to the true and plaine discouery of their villany and Witch-craft.





The Examinations of

Anne Baker, Ioane Willimot,
and Ellen Greene; as
followeth, &c.

Anne Baker.

Ioane Willimot.

Ellen Greene.



THE EXAMINATION
of *Anne Baker* of *Bottesford* in
the County of *Leicester* Spinster,
taken *March*, 1. 1618. by the
Right Honourable, *Francis Earle*
of *Rutland*, *Sir George Manners*
Knight, two of his *Maiesties Ju-*
stices of the peace for the Coun-
ty of *Lincolne*, and *Samuel Fle-*
ming Doctor of *Diuinitie*, one of
his *Maiesties Justices* of the peace
for the County of *Leicester* a-
foresaid.



HE saith that there are foure colours
of Planets, *Blacke*, *Yellow*, *Greene*,
and *Blew*, and that *Blacke* is al-
waies death, and that shee sawe the
Blew Plannet strike *Thomas Fairebarne*,
the eldest sonne vnto *William Fairebarne* of

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Bottesford aforesaid by the Pinfold there, within the which time the said William Fairebarne did beat her and breake her head, wherevpon the said Thomas Fairebarne, did mend. And being asked who did send that Planet? answered it was not I.

Further shee saith, that shee saw a hand appeare vnto her, and that shee heard a voyce in the ayre said vnto her: Anne Baker, saue thy selfe, for to morrow thou and thy maister must be slaine: and the next day her maister and shee were in a Cart together; and suddainely shee saw a flash of fire, and said her prayers, and the fire went away, and shortly after a Crow came and picked vpon her cloathes, and shee said her prayers againe, and bad the Crow go to whom he was sent, and the Crow went vnto her Maister, and did beat him to death, and shee with her prayers recovered him to life; but hee was sicke a fortnight after, and saith, that if shee had not had more knowledge then her maister, both he and shee and all the Cattell had beene slaine.

Being examined concerning a Childe of Anne Stannidge, which shee was suspected to haue bewitch-

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witched to death; saith, the said Anne Stannidge did deliuer her childe into her hands, and that shee did lay it vpon her skirt, but did no harme vnto it; And being charged by the Mother of the childe, that vpon the burning of the haire and the paring of the nailes of the said childe, the said Anne Baker came in and set her downe, and for one houres space could speake nothing; confesseth shee came into the house of the said Anne Stannidge in great paine, but did not know of the burning of the haire and nailes of the said Childe; but said she was so sicke that she did not know whither she went.

Being charged that shee bewitched Elizabeth Hough, the wife of William Hough to death, for that shee angred her in giuing her almes of her second bread; confesseth that she was angry with her and said she might haue giuen her of her better bread, for she had gone too often on her errands, but more she saith not.

This Examinat confesseth that shee came to Ioane Gylles house, her child being sicke, and that shee intreated this Examinat to look on the Child, and to tell her whether it was forspoken or no, and

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this Examinee said it was forspoken; but when the said child died she cannot tell.

And being asked concerning Nortley carrying of his Child home onto his owne house, where the said Anne Baker was, shee asked him, who gaue the said Child that loafe, he told her Anthony Gill, to whom this Examinee said, he might haue had a Child of his owne if hee would haue sought in time for it; which words she confessed shee did speake.

Being blamed by Henry Milles in this sort: A fire set on you, I haue had two or three ill nights; to whom shee made answere, you should haue let me alone then, which shee confesseth.

The said Anne Baker, March 2. 1618. confessed before Samuel Fleming Doctor of Diuinitie, that about 3. yeares agoe, shee went into Northamptonshire, and that at her comming back againe, one Peakes wife and Dennis his wife of Beluoyre told her that my young Lord Henry was dead, and that there was a gloue of the said Lord buried in the ground; and as that gloue did rot and wast, so did the liuer of the said Lord rot and wast.

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Further shee said, March 3. 1618. before Sr. George Manners Knight, and Samuel Fleming Doctor of Diuinity, that shee hath a Spirit which hath the shape of a white Dogge, which shee calleth her good Spirit.

Samuel Fleming test.

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The Examination of *Ioan Willimot*, taken the 28. of *February*, in the 16. yeare of the raigne of our So- ueraigne Lord, *JAMES*, ouer *Eng- land* King &c. and ouer *Scotland* the 52. before *Alexander Am- cotts* Esquire, one of his Maie- sties Iustices of the peace of the said parts and County.

THis Examinat saith, that *Ioane Flower* told her that my Lord of *Rutland* had dealt badly with her and that they had put away her Daughter, and that although she could not haue her will of my Lord him- selfe, yet she had spied my Lords Sonne and had stricken him to the heart. And she saith, that my Lords Sonne was stricken with a white Spirit, and that they can cure some that send vnto her, and that some reward her for her paines, and of some she taketh nothing.

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She further saith, that vpon Fryday night last, her Spirit came to her and told her that there was a bad woman at *Deeping* who had giuen her soule to the Diuell: and that her said Spirit did then appeare vnto her in a more vgly forme then it had formerly done, and that it vrged her much to giue it some- thing, although it were but a peece of her Girdle, and told her that it had taken great paines for her, but she saith that she would giue it nothing, and told it that she had sent it to no place but onely to see how my Lord *Rosse* did, and that her Spirit told her that he should doe well.

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The Examination of the said *Toan Willimott*, taken the second day of *March* in the yeare abouesaid, before the said *Alexander Amcots*.

THIS Examinee saith, That shee hath a Spirit which shee calleth *Pretty*, which was giuen vnto her by *William Berry* of *Langbolme* in *Rutlandshire*, whom she serued three yeares; and that her Master when hee gaue it vnto her, willed her to open her mouth, and hee would blow into her a Fairy which should doe her good; and that shee opened her mouth, and he did blow into her mouth; and that presently after his blowing, there came out of her mouth a Spirit, which stood vpon the ground in the the shape and forme of a Woman, which Spirit did aske of her her Soule, which shee then promised vnto it, being willed thereunto by her Master. Shee further confesseth, that shee neuer hurt any body, but did helpe diuers that sent for her, which

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which were stricken or fore-spoken: and that her Spirit came weekely to her, and would tell her of diuers persons that were stricken and forespoken. And shee saith, that the vse which shee had of the Spirit, was to know how those did which shee had vndertaken to amend; and that shee did helpe them by certaine prayers which she vsed, and not by her owne Spirit; neyther did she imploy her Spirit in any thing, but onely to bring word how those did which she had vndertaken to cure.

And shee further saith, that her Spirit came vnto her this last night (as she thought) in the forme of a woman, mumbling, but she could not vnderstand what it said. And being asked whether shee were not in a dreame or slumber when shee thought shee saw it, shee said no, and that she was as waking as at this present.

Alexander Amcots.
Thomas Robinson test.

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The Examination of *Joane Willmot* of *Goadby* in the County of *Leicester* *VViddow*, taken the 17. of *March*, 1618. by *Sir Henry Hastings* Knight, and *Samuel Fleming* Doctor of Diuinitie, two of his Maiesties Iustices of the Peace of the said County of *Leicester*.

She saith that she tould one *Cookes* wife of *Stathorne* in the said County. Labourer, that *John Patchett* might haue had his Child aliue, if he would haue sought forth for it in time, and if it were not death stricken in her wayes, and that *Patchets* wife had an euill thing within her, which should make an end of her, and that she knew by her Girdle.

She saith further, that *Gamaliel Greete* of *Waltham* in the said County Shepheard, had a Spirit like a white Mouse put into him
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in his swearing; and that if hee did looke vpon any thing with an intent to hurt, it should be hurt, and that hee had a marke on his left arme, which was cut away; and that her own spirit did tell her all this before it went from her.

Further she saith, that *Ioane Flower*, *Margaret Flower* and shee, did meet about a weeke before *Ioane Flowers* apprehension, in *Black-borrow-hill*, and went from thence home to the said *Ioan Flowers* house, and there she saw two spirits, one like a Rat, and the other like an Owle; and one of them did sucke vnder her right eare, as shee thought: and the said *Ioan* told her, that her spirits did say that shee should neyther be hanged nor burnt.

Further she saith, that the said *Ioan Flower* did take vp some earth and spet vpon it, and did worke it with her finger, and put it vp into her purse, and said though shee could not hurt the Lord himselfe, yet shee had sped his Sonne, which is dead.

H. Hastings.

Samuel Fleming.

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The Examination of *Ellen Greene* of *Stathorne* in the County of *Leicester*, taken the 17. of *March* 1618. by *Sir Henry Hastings* K^t: and *Samuel Fleming* D. of *Diuinitie*, two of his Maiesties Iustices of the Peace of his said County.

Shee saith, that one *Ioan Willimot* of *Goadby* came about fixe yeares since to her in the *Wowlds*, and perswaded this Examinee to forsake *God*, and betake her to the diuel, and she would giue her two spirits, to which shee gaue her consent, and thereupon the said *Ioan Willimot* called two spirits, one in the likenesse of a *Kitlin*, and the other of a *Moldiwarp*: the first the said *Willimot* called *pusse*, the other *bisse*, *bisse*, and they presently came to her, & she departing left them with this Examinee, and they leapt on her shoulder, and the *kitlin* suckt vnder her right eare on her neck, & the *Moldiwarp* on the left side in the like place.

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After they had suckt her, shee sent the *Kitlin* to a *Baker* of that *Towne*, whose name shee remembers not, who had called her *Witch* & stricken her; and bad her said spirit goe and bewitch him to death: the *Moldiwarp* shee then bad go to *Anne Dawse* of the same *towne* and bewitch her to death, because she had called this examinee *witch*, *whore*, *jade*, &c. and within one fortnight after they both dyed.

And further this Examinee saith, that she sent both her spirits to *Stonesby*, to one *Willison* a husbandman, & *Robert Williman* a husbandmans sonne, and bad the *Kitlin* goe to *Willison* and bewitch him to death, and the *Moldywarp* to the other, and bewitch him to death, which they did; and within tenne dayes they dyed. These foure were bewitched while this Examinee dwelt at *Waltham* afore said.

About three yeares since, this Examinee remoued thence to *Stathorne*, where she now dwelt: vpon a difference betweene the said *Willimot* and the wife of *John Patchet* of the said *Stathorne* *Yeoman*, shee the said *Willimot* called her this Examinee to goe and touch

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the said *John Patchets* Wife and her Childe, which shee did, touching the said *John Patchets* wife in her bed, and the childe in the *Grace-wifes* armes, and then sent her said spirits to bewitch them to death, which they did, and so the woman lay languishing by the space of a moneth and more, for then shee dyed; the childe dyed the next day after she touched it.

And shee further saith, that the said *Ioane Willimot* had a spirit sucking on her, vnder the left flanke, in the likenesse of a little white Dogge, which this Examine saith, that she saw the same sucking in *Barley-haruest* last, being then at the house of the said *Ioan Willimot*.

And for her selfe, this Examine further saith, that shee gaue her soule to the Diuell to haue these spirits at her command; for a confirmation whereof, she suffered them to suck her alwayes as aforesaid about the change and full of the Moone.

H. Hastings.

Samuel Fleming.

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The Examination of *Phillip Flower*, Sister of *Margaret Flower*, and Daughters of *Ioane Flower*, before *Sr William Pelham*, and *Mr. Butler*, Iustices of the Peace, *Febr. 4. 1618.* Which was brought in at the *Allizes* as evidence against her Sister *Margaret*.

She saith, that her mother and her sister maliced the Earle of *Rutland*, his Countesse, and their Children, because her Sister *Margaret*, was put out of the Ladies seruice of Laundry, and exempted from other seruices about the house, wherevpon her said sister, by the commandement of her mother, brought from the Castle the right hand gloue of the Lord *Henry Rosse*, which she deliuered to her Mother; who presently rubd it on the backe of her Spirit *Rutterkin*, and then put it into hot boyling water, afterward shee pricked it often, and buried it in the yard, wishing the Lord *Rosse* might neuer thriue, and so her Sister *Margaret* continued with her mother, where shee often saw the cat *Rutterkin* leape on her shoulder, and sucke her necke.

Shee further confessed, that shee heard her mother often curse the Earle and his Lady, and therevpon would boyle feathers and blood together, vsing many Diuellish speeches and strange gestures.

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The Examination of *Margaret Flower*, Sister of *Phillip Flower*. &c, about the 22. of *January*. 1618.

She saith and confesseth, that about foure or five yeare since her Mother sent her for the right hand gloue of *Henry Lord Rosse*, afterward that her mother bade her goe againe into the Castle of *Beauer*, and bring downe the gloue or some other thing of *Henry Lord Rosse*, and shee askt what to doe? Her Mother replied to hurt my *Lord Rosse*: wherevpon she brought downe a gloue, and deliuered the same to her Mother, who stroked *Rutterkin* her Cat with it, after it was dipt in hot water, and so prickt it often, after which *Henry Lord Rosse* fell sicke within a weeke, and was much tormented with the same.

She further saith, that finding a gloue about two or three yeares since of *Francis Lord Rosse*, on a dung-hill, she deliuered it to her mother, who put it into hot water, and after tooke it out and rubd it on *Rutterkin* the Cat, and bad him goe vpwards, and after her mother buried it in the yard, and said a mischief light on him, but he will mend againe.

Shee further saith, that her Mother and shee, and her Sister agreed together to bewitch the Earle and his Lady, that they might haue no more children: and being demanded the cause of this their mallice and ill will; shee saith, that about foure yeares since the

the Countesse (growing into some mislike with her) gaue her forty shillings, a bolster, & a mattresse, and bad her lye at home, and come no more to dwell at the Castle; which she not onely tooke in ill part, but grudged at it exceedingly, swearing in her heart to be reuenged. After this, her Mother complained to the Earle against one *Peake*, who had offered her some wrong, wherein she conceiued that the Earle tooke not her part, as shee expected, which dislike with the rest, exasperated her displeasure against him, and so she watched an opportunity to bee reuenged: wherevpon she tooke wooll out of the said mattresse, and a paire of gloues, which were giuen her by *Mr. Vauasor*, and put them into warme water, mingling them with some blood, and stirring it together, then she tooke the wooll and gloues out of the water, and rubd them on the belly of *Rutterkin* her Cat, saying the Lord and the Lady should haue more Children, but it would be long first.

Shee further confesseth, that by her mothers commandement, shee brought to her a peece of a handkercher of the Lady *Katherine* the Earles daughter, and her mother put it into hot water, & then taking it out, rubd it on *Rutterkin*, bidding him flye, and go; wherevpon *Rutterkin* whined and cryed Mew: whereupon shee said, that *Rutterkin* had no power ouer the Lady *Katherine* to hurt her.

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The Examination of *Phillip Flower*, the 25. of *February*, 1618. before *Francis Earle* of *Rutland*, *Francis Lord Willoughby* of *Ersby*, *S^r. George Manners*, and *S^r. William Pelham*.

SHee confesseth and saith, that shee hath a Spirit sucking on her in the forme of a white Rat, which keepeth her left breast, and hath so done for three or foure yeares, and concerning the agreement betwixt her Spirit and her selfe, she confesseth and saith, that when it came first vnto her, shee gaue her Soule to it, and it promised to doe her good, and cause *Thomas Simpson* to loue her, if shee would suffer it to sucke her, which shee agreed vnto; and so the last time it suckt was on Tuesday at night, the 23. of *February*.

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The Examination of *Margaret Flower*, at the same time, &c.

SHee confesseth, that she hath two familiar Spirits sucking on her, the one white, the other black spotted; the white sucked vnder her left breast, and the blacke spotted within the inward parts of her secrets. When shee first entertained them she promised them her soule, and they couenanted to doe all things which she commanded them, &c.

Shee further saith, that about the 30. of *January*, last past, being Saturday, foure Diuells appeared vnto her in *Lincolne* layle, at eleauen or twelue a clocke at midnight: The one stood at her beds fecte, with a blacke head like an Ape, and spake vnto her; but what, shee cannot well remember, at which shee was very angry because hee would speake no plainer, or let her vnderstand his meaning: the other three were *Rutterkin*, *Little Robin*, and *Spirit*; but shee neuer mistrusted them, nor suspected her selfe, till then.

There is another Examination of the said *Margaret Flower*, taken the fourth of *February*, 1618. tending to this effect.

THat being asked what shee knoweth concerning the bewitching of the Earle of *Rutland*, his wife, and children, shee saith, that it is
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true, that her selfe, her mother, and sister were all displeas'd with him, especially with the Countesse, for turning her out of seruice, wherevpon some foure yeare since, her mother commanded her to goe vp to the Castle, and bring her the right hand gloue of the Lord *Henry Rosse*, the Earles eldest sonne; which gloue she found on the rushes in the Nurcery, and deliuered the same to her Mother, who put it into hot water, prickt it often with her knife, then tooke it out of the water, and rubd it vpon *Rutterkin*, bidding him height and goe, and doe some hurt to *Henry Lord Rosse*, wherevpon hee fell sicke, and shortly after dyed, which her Mother hearing of, said it was well: but after shee had rubd the gloue on the Spirit *Rutterkin*, shee threw it into the fire and burnt it, &c.

THese Examinations and some others were taken and charily preserued for the contriuing of sufficient euidences against them, and when the Iudges of Assise came downe to Lincolne about the first weeke of *March*, being *Sr. Henry Hobert*, Lord chiefe Iustice of the Common Pleas, and *Sr. Ed. Bromley* one of the Barons of the Exchequer, they were presented vnto them, who not only wondred at the wickednesse of these persons, but were amazed at their practises and horrible contracts with the Diuell to damne their own soules: And although the Right Honorable Earle had sufficient grieffe for the losse of his Children; yet no doubt

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doubt it was the greater to consider the manner, and how it pleased God to inflict on him such a fashion of visitation: Besides, as it amazed the hearers to vnderstand the particulars, and the circumstances of this diuellish contract, so was it as wonderfull to see their desperate impenitency, and horrible distraction, according to the rest of that sort, exclaiming against the Diuell for deluding them, and now breaking promise with them, when they stood in most need of his helpe.

Notwithstanding all these aggrauations, such was the vnparalleld magnanimity, wisedome, and patience of this generous Noble man, that hee vrged nothing against them more then their owne confessions, and so quietly left them to iudiciall triall, desiring of God mercy for their soules, and of men charity to censure them in their condemnation: but God is not mocked, and so gaue them ouer to iudgement, nor man so reformed, but for the Earles sake, they cursed them to that place which they themselues long before had bargained for.

What now remaines (gentle Reader) but for thee to make vse of so wonderfull a Story, and remarkable an accident, out of which, to draw to a conclusion, thou maist collect these particulars. First, that God is the supreame commander of all things, and permitteth wonderfull actions in the World, for the tryall of the godly, the punishment of the wicked, and his owne glory: of which man shall neuer attaine to know the reason or occasion. Secondly, that the Diuell is the meere seruant and

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agent of God, to prosecute whatsoever hee shall command rather then giue leaue vnto; limiting him yet thus farre in his owne nature, that he can go no further then the bounds within which hee is hedged. Thirdly, that this God hath punishments, *ad correctionem*, that is to say, chasticements of the godly, & *ad ruinam*, *Videlicet*, Iudgements against the wicked, wherein yet man must disclaime any knowledge, and forsake preiudicate opinions. For the very iust shall be tried like gold, and no man exempted from castigation whom God doth loue. Fourthly, that this Diuell, though he bee Gods Instrument, yet worketh altogether by deceit: for as hee was a lyer from the beginning; so let no man trust him, because he aymeth at the confusion of all Mankinde. Fifthly, that the wicked, (howeuer they may thriue and prosper for a time) yet in the end are sure to be payed home, either with punishment in this life or in the life to come, or both, as a finall reward of monstrous impiety. Sixthly, that Man in his frailty must not presume of prosperity; but prepare a kinde of stooping vnder the hand of God, when it pleaseth him to strike or punish vs. Seventhly, that there is no murmuring nor repining against God, but quietly to tolerate his inflictions, whensoever they chance, of which this worthy Earle is a memorable example to all men and Ages. Eightly, that the punishments of the wicked are so many warnings to all irregular finners to amend their liues, and auoid the iudgement to come, by penitency and newnesse of lite. Ninthly, that
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though man could bee content to passe ouer blasphemies and offences against the Statutes of Princes, yet God will ouertake them in their own walks, and pull them backe by the sleue into a slaughter-house, as here you know the euidences against these people tooke life and power from their owne Confessions. Tenthly, and last of all, that priuate opinion cannot preuaile against publique censures: for here you see the learned and religious Iudges cryed out with our Sauour, *Ex ore tuo*. Therefore though it were so, that neither Witch nor Diuell could doe these things, yet *Let not a Witch liue*, saith God, and *Let them dye* (saith the Law of England) *that haue conuersation with spirits, and presume to blaspheme the name of God with spels and incantation*. O then you sonnes of men, take warning by these examples, and eyther diuert your steps from the broad way of destruction, and irrecoverable gulph of damnation, or with *Iosuahs* counsell to *Achan*, blesse God for the discouery of wickednesse, and take thy death patiently, as the preuention of thy future iudgement, and sauing innocents from punishment, who otherwise may be suspected without a cause.

Vitam tam facile vera inuenire possem, quam falsa conuincere.

FINIS.