

Invisible World Discover'd;

OR THE

History of Witches and Warlocks.

CONTAINING

The Wonderful Relation of Major Weir
and his Sister—The Witches of Calder,
Pittenweem, Borrowstouness, Bargarran,
and Culross.

AND

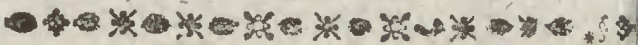
A REMARKABLE PROCLAMATION,

Which was heard at the Cross of Edinburgh
at twelve o'Clock at night, in the reign
of King James the IV of Scotland.



Stirling Printed by C. Randall, 1807.

DISCOVERED.



A remarkable Proclamation heard at the Cross of Edinburgh about 12 o'Clock at night.

AFTER that King James IV. had mustered his army in the Borrow-moor being at that time a large spacious field near Edinburgh, and most pleasant and delightful by reason of many stately castles which grew on it, about mid night in the month of July, there was a proclamation heard at the market-cross of Edinburgh, summoning a great many burgeses gentlemen barons and noblemen to appear before the tribunal of one Plotcock.

The Provost of the town standing in his own fore stair, hearing his name cited among that list, cried out, "I decline that summons, and appeal to the mercy of God."

This was the army which the king led into England, and were defeated at Flouden on that fatal day, Tuesday the 9th of Sept 1513, where the King, with near about five thousand of the noblest, and worthiest families of the kingdom did fall.

Account of an Apparition which appeared to King James V. and his Courtiers, in the Kirk of Linlithgow.

WHILE the King was at Linlithgow, collecting his army which was defeat at Floudon being full of cares and perplexities, he went into the Church of St. Michael, to hear evening song (as then it was called) While he was at his devotion, a man of very venerable appearance came into the Church, he had amber coloured hair hanging down on his shoulders, his fore head high, a little bald and his garments of azure colour, somewhat long girded about with a towe', and of comely and reverend aspect.

Having inquired for the King, he intruded himself thro' the people till he came where his Majesty was and with a clownish simplicity, leaning over the Canon's seat, where the King sat, he said, "Sir, I am feat hicher to enreat you to delay your expedition for this time, and proceed no further in your intended journey; for if you do, you shall nor prosper in your enterprife nor any of your followers. I am farther charged to warn you, Not to use the acquaintance, company, or counsel of women, as you tender your honour, life and estate." — After this warning he withdrew himself back through the people.

When the service was ended the King inquired earnestly for him, but he could not

be found neither could any of the bystanders, who narrowly observed him, feel or perceive how, when, or where he passed from them.

MAJOR WEIR and his SISTER.

THOMAS WEIR was born at Clydesdale, near to Lanark, and had been a Lieutenant in Ireland and afterwards got some public command in the city of Edinburgh in 1049 and 50. Many things might be narrated of him, but we shall only relate some of his forgeries as most remarkable for our purpose.

Before he was burnt, he had charge over the waiters at the ports of the city of Edinburgh; and coming one day, to inspect his charge he found some of the waiters absent from their duty; and after passing some reflections, one whom they had left to watch till they should return, informed the Major, that they were gone to take a glass with their old friend Mr. Burn. At which he started back, and casting an eye upon him, repeated the word Burn four or five times. and going home, he never came abroad afterwards, till after his impieties were discovered.

It was observed, that going to Liberton, he shunned to step over Liberton-burn, as if he had foreseen his fatal end, which was to burn in a fire.

A year before he discovered himself he fell into a sore sickness during which time he spake to all who visited him, in a very pious

and devout strain. But being some time after seized with dreadful tortures of conscience, confessed some of the most enormous crimes, saying "Before God I have not told you the hundred part of what I am guilty of." Which coming from a man of so high repute for religion and piety, amazed all who were then present.

When two of the magistrates came to his house in the night time to carry him to prison, they found five dollars rolled up in clouts; and his sister advised them especially to secure his staff and so they carried her and all off.

The money was put into the bag and the clouts thrown into the fire which made an unusual circling and dancing in the fire.

There was another clout found, with some hard thing in it, which they threw into the fire likewise. It being a certain root circled and sparkled like gun powder; and puffing from the tunnel of the chimney it gave a crack like a small cannon, to the amazement of all that were present.

The money was taken by one of the Bailies to his own house and laid in his closet. After family prayer, he retired into the same closet; during which time his wife and the rest of the family were affrighted by a terrible noise within the study, like the falling of a house, three times after other. His wife knocking gave a fearful cry, "My dear, are you alive?" The Baillie came out, surprised at her shriek, having heard nothing. Whether he concealed what he heard, his wife being

with child, was not known. The money being presently sent to another Bailie's house, it was reported that there also some uncommon noise took place.

During the time of his imprisonment, he was never willing to be spoken to. And when the ministers of the city offered to pray with him, he cried out in fury, "Torment me not; for I am tormented already!" A minister asking if he should pray for him? he answered, "Not at all." The minister replied "Sir, I will pray in spite of you or the devil your master." He accordingly prayed, making him at least to hear him; the Major staring, and appeared quite stupified.

Another minister proposing to pray for him, he said, "Do it not upon your peril.—Torment me not before the time."

When the rope was about his neck to prepare him for the fire he was bid say, "Lor I be merciful to him." But he answered, "Let me alone I will not—I have lived as a beast, and I must die as a beast."

The fire being kindled, both he and his staff a little after were dropt into the flames.

Whatever incantation was in his staff, it is said he could not go about any religious duty without his rod in his hand, and leaning on it; which made those who heard him pray, admire his fluency in prayer.

His staff being dropt into the fire with him, reminds me of the following story in Zetland, a few years ago, a judge having condemned an old woman and her daughter, called Ellen

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Stewart, for witchcraft, sent them to be burnt. The maid was so stupid that she was thought to be possessed. When she had hung some little time on the gibbet, a black pitchey-like ball formed out of her mouth, and after the fire was kindled, it grew to the bigness of a walnut, and then flew up like squibs into the air! — 't was taken to be a visible sign that the devil was gone out of her.

A merchant's wife in Edinburgh, having heard much spoken of his utterance in prayer, was desirous to hear him, and therefore attended at a neighbouring house which he frequented, that she might be satisfied as to the truth of it. But it so happened, that altho' she attended on him several times, he could never be prevailed on to open his mouth in her presence; not so much as ask blessing to their entertainment, but would either remain mute, or take his staff and get off.

Some few days before he discovered himself this gentlewoman coming from the castlehill, where her husband's niece was lying in of a child, about midnight perceived, near to the Westbow head in Edinburgh, three women in windows, shouting, laughing, and clapping their hands. The gentlewoman went forward till just at major Weir's door, when there rose from the street a woman about the length of two ordinary females, who went before her till they came opposite to a narrow lane, called the stinking closs, into which the ghost entered, and the gentlewoman looking after her, perceiv'd the closs full of flaming torches.

A minister of Edinburgh went to the prison after the Major's execution and told his sister that he was burnt, but she could not believe it. She then asked what was become of his staff. He told her it was burnt along with him. Whereupon notwithstanding of her age, she nimbly and in a furious rage, fell on her knees, uttering words horrible to be repeated. And when rising up as she was desired her raging agony closed with these words "O sir, "I know he is with the devils, for with them "he lived" She entreated that minister to assist her and attend her to her death, which at her importunity he yielded to it.

What she said in private to this minister, he said, must die with himself. The Major was about seventy years of age when he suffered, and his sister was far advanced in years. She avouched that from her sixteenth year to her fiftieth, her brother had the incestuous rule of her, and then loathed her for her age.

The foresaid minister asked if she was ever with child to him? To which she answered, that he prevented that by means abominable; which she beginning to relate, the minister stopped her.

When she was interrogate if she had any hand in her brother's devilry, she gave the following relations; a fiery chariot or coach came to his door at midnight — and another time being invited by a friend to pay a visit at Dalkeith, as they were on the road, one came and whispered something in his ear that affected him very much, soon after which,

her brother told them that he had strong apprehensions king Charles's forces were routed at Worcester - which within two or three days was confirmed by the post. She said none saw the fiery chariot but themselves.

She knew much of his enchanted staff for by it he was enabled to pray, to commit evils not to be named. yea even to reconcile neighbours man and wife, when at variance - She oft hid it from him, and because without it he could do nothing, he would threaten and vow to discover her incest, fearing which, she delivered it to him again.

She being famous for spinning, was asked the cause of it. But she denied having any assistance from the devil; yet owned that one time her brother being from home with her, when she returned, she found there was more yarn on her wheel than she left; and that her weaver could not make cloth thereof, the yarn breaking or falling from the loom.

Once there came a stranger to her, while she was at her wheel, and proposed a way for her to make rich. The way was this, "You must stand up," said the stranger, "and say 'All crosses and cares go out of this house.'" She answered, "God forbid I say that, but let them be welcome when they are sent."

After two or three visits more, she asked this stranger where she dwelt? he replied, "In the Potter-row." But upon enquiry, neither such a house nor woman was to be found. "I judged," said she, "it was some or

“my brother’s infernal acquaintances for I
“knew he had familiarity with such.”

This minds me of a wizard accused and executed in Zeland, for witchcraft, several years ago, called Luggy to a nickname. He being a fisher, had a trick at any time when hungry at sea, to cast out his line, and would bring up fish well boiled and roasted; and he and his comrades would make a merry meal thereof, not questioning who was cook.

He had another piece of art in great forms, to go up to a hill near his own house, where there was a deep pit out of which with his lines, he drew up coellings, or keiling for his provision. This story is yet to be seen in the criminal books of that country.

Miss Weir being asked anent her parents, She said, she was persuaded her mother was a witch; for the secretest thing that either she or any of the family could do, when once a mark appeared on her brow, she could tell it them tho’ done at a distance. Being asked what sort of a mark it was, She answered, “I have some such mark myself when I please, on my forehead.” Whereupon she offered to uncover her head for visible satisfaction. The minister refusing to behold it, and forbidding any discovery, was earnestly requested by some spectators to allow her, and he yielded. She then put back her head-dress, and seeming to frown there was seen an exact figure of a horse shoe with nails in her wrinkles, terrible to the stoutest beholders.

In the morning before her execution. she told the minister she resolved to die with all the shame she could to expiate, under mercy her sinful life. This he understood to be an ingenuous confession of her sins, in opposition to her mother's desperate silence and despair, to which he did encourage her. At parting with her, she gave him hearty thanks for the pious care he had shewn her; and taking him by the hands, offered to kiss them. She repeated whatever words he desired her

When she was brought to the place of execution, she ascended up the ladder, and spoke somewhat confusedly of her sins, as also of her brother and his enchanting staff: and, with a ghastly countenance beholding the multitude of spectators all wondering, and some weeping she said, with a loud voice. There are many here this day wondering and greeting for me, but alas! few mourn for a broken—— at which words many seemed angry; Some desired her to mind higher concerns. The executioner being desired to do his duty, she fell to throwing off her clothes, that she might die stark naked. Then they understood what she meant by dying with shame. The hangman struggled with her to keep on her clothes, and she struggled with him to have them off. At last he was forced to throw her over openfaced which afterwards he covered with a cloth.

Major Weir was burnt between Edinburgh and Leith, at a place called the Gallow-lee, on Thursday the 14th of April 1602.

WITCHES IN THE SHIRE OF
 RENFREW.

IN the month of August 1696. Christian Shaw, daughter to Shaw of Bargarran in the shire of Renfrew. about eleven years of age, observing one of the maids of the house to steal and drink some milk she told her mother of it: Whereupon the maid, (Katherine Campbell) being of a proud and revengeful nature and a great curser and swearer did in a great rage, thrice imprecate the curse of God upon the child. On Sunday following one Agnes Nasmith came to Bargarran's house, where she asked the said Christian how the lady and young child was, and how old the young child was. To which Christian replied What do I know? Then Agnes asked how herself did; and how old she was? To which she answered, that she was well and in the eleventh year of her age. On Saturday night thereafter, the child went to bed in good health, but so soon as she was asleep began to cry, Help. help; and flew over the resting bed where she was lying. with such violence that her brains had been dashed out, if a woman had not broke the force of the child's motion, and she remained as if she had been dead, for the space of half an hour. After this she was troubled with sore pains. And when any touched her she cried and schreeched as if they had been killing her, but could not speak.

Some days thereafter she fell a crying that Katherine Campbell and Agnes Nasmith were cutting her side and other parts of her body. In this condition she continued a month with some variation, as to the fits and intervals

She did thrust out of her mouth parcel's of hair some cutted, some plaited some knotted, of different colours, and in large quantities; and likewise coal cinders about the bigness of a chesnut: some whereof were so hot, that they could scarcely be handled: One of which Dr. Brisbane being by her when she took it out of her mouth felt it to be hotter than any one's body could make it.

The girl continued a long time in this condition, till the government began to take notice of it, and give commission for some honourable gentlemen for the trial of these two, and several others concerned in these infernal practices; and being brought before the judges, two of their accomplices confessed the crime: whereupon they were condemned and executed.

THE

Wonderful Exploits

OF THE

Witches of Pittenweem.

—*§—

PETER MORTON, a smith at Pittenweem, being desired by one Betty Laing to do a piece of work for her: which he refused excusing himself in respect he was pre-engaged to serve a ship with nails within a certain time; so that till he had finished that work he could not engage in any other. Notwithstanding, the said Betty Laing declared herself dissatisfied and vowed revenge.

The said Peter Morton afterward being indisposed coming by the door saw a small vessel full of water and stoked with coals. Perceiving an alteration in his health, and remembering Betty Laing's threatenings he presently suspected her witchcraft being concerned in the matter, and challenged her upon

at account. Therefor finding his indif-
 osition growing worse being tormented and
 ricked as with bodkins and pins, he openly
 did the blame on her wit nicraft. He con-
 vining to be tormented. He was by warrant,
 apprehended with others in Pittenweem. No
 natural reason could be given for his distemper,
 his face and neck being dreadfully distorted,
 his back prodigiously rising and falling on a
 sudden, his joints pliable and instantly so stiff,
 so no human power could bow them. The
 said Betty Laing and her companions being
 in custody were brought to the room where
 he was and his face covered. He then told
 them his tormentors were in the room and
 named them. And tho' they formerly would
 make no confession Betty Laing now confes-
 sed her crime, and accused several others.

She said Betty laing confessed her compact
 with the devil, and using of spells; and parti-
 cularly her slackning the coal in water —
 she named her associates in revenge against
 Peter Morton viz Janet Corset Lilly Wallace,
 and one Lawson who had framed a picture of
 six, and every one of the forenamed persons
 had a pin in the picture for torture. They
 could not tell what became of the image but
 thought the devil, whom they had seen in the
 vision had stolen it. Betty Laing, likewise said, that one Isobel
 James, a young lass, was also in compact
 with the devil. This woman was desired to
 dine with Betty when she refused: and Betty
 had her see a man at the other end of the table,

who appeared as a gentleman, and promised her all prosperity in the world. She promised her service to him, and he put a mark on her, which was very painful, he was shortly after ordered to attend the company to go to one M^rGregor's house to murder him. On awaking when they were there and recommending himself to the divine protection they were forced to withdraw.

This Jobel and his wife appeared ingenuous and very penitent in their confession. He said He who forgave Manasseh's wickedness might forgive her's also; and died very penitent and to the satisfaction of many.

Betty Leing was suspected by her husband long before she was laid in prison by warrant of the magistrates: The occasion was this She said that she had packs of wool coming from Leith to her, which she was to sell at Auchtermuchty fair; and they being long a coming he said they would not be in time at the fair. She desired him to go to the market for she was sure her merchant would not fail her. He went off long before her; and when he came to the town he found her before him and two packs of very good wool, which he instantly sold. And coming home with a black horse which she had with her they drank till it was late in the night ere they went home the man said, what shall I do with the horse she replied, cast the bridle on his neck, and you will be quit of him. And as her husband thought the horse flew with a great noise thro' the air. They were by a complaint

the Privy Council. prosecuted by her majesty's
advocate 1794. but all set at liberty save one,
who died in prison in Piteavveem
Betty Laing died. undesired. in her bed in
her st. Andrews; all the rest died miserable
and violent deaths.

THE

WONDERFUL

WITCH of CALDER.

THIS horrible slave of Satan was first sus-
pected by her neighbours and then her
horrible witchcrafts were found to the con-
fusion of many, and, direful experience of
Lord Forpichen's family.

She had a child died. which she gave to
the devil not only the soul but the corse
without burying.

She put an incantation upon the aforesaid
honourable Lord's son so that he was the
terror as well as the grief of the family.—

His child was in a room with his sisters and
old them he knew what was doing by others
absent; and the daughters told their Lady-
other.

I forbear to tell all I had from eye and
witnesses, but this one I cannot pass.

The son being once tormented extremely
his tutor sat up all night with him, but being
a little drouty he fell a slumbering when
a sudden he was roused by a flash of fire
passing the window, but thinking the child was
asleep, continued to watch more carefully.
In a little time after as he thought the same
fire appeared again at the window the child
was awake in bed, and told him he had been
at Torryburn in the same.

This child was several times taken away.
He told the family sometimes when he was
to be taken away, and at other times, even
tho' they waited on him, he appeared to
be lifted up in the air, as if to be taken away
from them.

This witch being taken into custody,
discovered several others of her accomplices
who are all dead.

She was examined by the minister of the
parish, and several others, but was brutal
ignorant and scarce knew any thing but
witchcraft.

There was one day that this child
waited on when she was to be taken away,
they kept the door and window close: but
a certain person going to the door he also
went to the door, and was lifted into the air:
he was caught by the heels and coat-tails,
and taken back again.

There were many and dreadful things happened to this child, which we forbear to mention, on account of that honourable family.

When this witch was examined about the corpse of the child, she said the corpse were buried; but the wright that made the coffin declared that she put nothing in the coffin but clouts. Then she said the child being long pined and all the flesh taken off by the sickness it appeared but clouts; yet at length she confessed that she gave the corpse as well as the soul to the devil.

She with all her infernal accomplices, died in custody after they had confessed many of their amazing incantations, and horrible, unheard of witchcrafts.

THE

Surprising Intrigues and Pranks

OF THE

Devil at Woodstock,

In ENGLAND. Anno 1649.

WHEN the Scotch commissioners were on their way to London with their servants, to settle some important business. Octr 13th 1649. being come to the manor house of the

said Woodstock, they took up their lodging in the king's own rooms. On the 14th and 15th they were a little disturbed with some uncommon rumbling about the house and on the 16th early in the morning there came, as they thought, a large beast in the shape of a dog in the bed-chamber where two of the commissioners lay and going under their beds fell to gnawing the cords of their bed, but on finding the cords whole when they arose, and a quarter of beef untouched which lay open in the room, they were convinced that it must have been something of an infernal nature.

October 7. There was some invisible power, moved the chairs up and down the room. Then it hoisted up the feet of the bed so high, that they thought they would have been turned over, and then let them fall down with such force that their bodies rebounded from the bed-head so violently, that their bodies were pained with it.

October 18th Something came into the bed-chamber, and walked up and down then fetching the warming pan out of the drawing-room, made such noise as if a number of beasts had been let a ringing

October 19 trenchers were thrown up and down the dining-room, and at them who were in it. One of them being awakened, put forth his head to see what was the matter, but had trenchers thrown at him.

On the 24th they heard such noise in the dining room as if a great quantity of wood had been thrown down on the floor; which

ing heard by thole in the drawing-room, one of them rose to see what was done fearing that his fellow-commissioners had been killed, but found all safe. Whereupon returning to his bed again, he found two or three dozen of trenchers thrown into it and handsomely covered with the bed-clothes.

October 25th. The curtains of the bed in the drawing room were drawn to and fro and the bedstead shaken as before. And in the bed-chamber, glass flew about so thick and so fast that not one pane of the chamber-windows broken that they thought all the windows of the house were broken. But upon examination they found all the windows safe.

October 29 something going to the window opened and shut it. Then going into the bed-chamber it threw great stones for half an hour's time: some whereof lighted on the two beds to the number of above eighty — gave two several knocks, which astonished the neighbouring dwellers and might have been heard a great way off. During these noises which were heard in both rooms together, the commissioners and their servants were strack with so great horror that they cried out one to another for help. One of them recovering himself out of this fright, caught a sword, and had almost killed one of his brethren coming out of his bed in his shirt whom he took for the evil spirit that did the mischief. At this evil spirit's departure, he shook the walls of the manor most terribly, and took all the glass of the windows away.

A Wonderful Story

OF

The Witch of Lyons,

IN FRANCE.

A Lieutenant of a guard called Jaquetta having supped one night in a rich merchant's house as he was passing home, by the way said to his companion, "I wonder what I have eaten and drunken at the merchant's house for I feel myself so hot that if I meet with never so bad a woman, I could not forbear using of her." Whereupon, a little after he overtook a gentlewoman masked whom he proposed to accompany to her lodgings and therefore discharged all his companions except two. They brought him to his apprehension to a low house hard by the city wall where there were two rooms. After he had enjoyed her he desired her, that according to the custom of the French gentlemen his two comrades might partake of the same freedom which she granted. After which, she told them, that if they knew who she was

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one of them would have ventured with her. Thereupon she whistled three times, and all vanished. The next morning the two comrades that had gone with Lieutenant Jaquette were found dead under the city-wall among the ordure and excrements and Jaquette himself a little way off half dead, who was taken up and coming to himself again, confessed all this, and presently died.

This story is similar to one related above 50 years ago concerning one William Barton, who was apprehended for witchcraft. In his last confession he said, "If I had twenty sons, I would advise them to shun the lust or uncleanness. For wherever I saw a beautiful woman, maid, or wife I coveted her, which wicked disposition has been the only cause of my becoming the devil's vassal."

One day, says he going from my own house in Kirkcaldon to the Queensferry I overtook in Dalmeny muir a young and comely gentlewoman. I drew near to her, but she shunned my company: and when I insisted, she became angry, and seemed very nice. Said I since we are both going one way, be pleased to accept of a convoy. At last after much entreaty she became more pliant, and at last I was allowed all freedom and I soon experienced to my sorrow afterwards whose embraces I had enjoyed by her proposing to give me a mark with 15 L Scots in name of her tocher, and so we parted.

In ancient times, in Scotland, the people believed, that by repeating the following lines both their persons and houses would be preserved from the power of witches and evil spirits.

Wha sains the house the night ?
 They that sains it i'ka night :
 Saint Bryde and her brate,
 Saint Colme and his hat ;
 Saint Michael and his spear,
 Keep this house frae the weir.

A country-man in East Lothian, said the following words always before he began to take any meat.

Lord be bless'd for all his gifts,
 Defy the Devil and all his shifts,
 God send me more filler :
 And meat may I want never.

AMEN.

F I N I S.