

A Wonderful

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PROPHECY

By One called

NIXON,

Who lived in *Cheshire*, in the Reign of
King *James VI.* of *Scotland*, and *I.*
of *England*,

FORETELLING

Several remarkable Events relating to the
United Kingdoms of *Great Britain*, some
of which are already accomplish'd, and
others to be accomplished (as alledged) in
the Reign of our Sovereign King *George II.*

WITH

A short Description of that Prophet.



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A N
A C C O U N T
O F
N I X O N,
AND HIS
Cheshire Prophecy.

NIXON was a short squab Fellow, had a great Head and goggle Eyes, and us'd to slobber and drivle when he spoke, which was but seldom. He was very furly, and would run after and beat the Children that made Sport at him. He would do nothing without Beating. He had a large Stomach, and would eat up a great Shoulder of Mutton at a Meal, and a Luncheon of Bread and Cheese after it.

The Manner how *Nixon* was discovered to be a Prophet, was on this wise: *His Master being one Day at Plow, and Nixon following him, the Boy stoop on a sudden, and dropt his Bottle and Budget, and stood as in a Trance; they beat him, but to no Purpose, for he stood still in the same Manner above an Hour. At last he told them, in a very rational Manner, of divers Things that were done some Time before, and of others that would come to pass.*

Nixon, our Prophet, was an Ideot; and was employ'd by several Farmers in *Cheshire* as their Plowman and Drudge.

drudge, and as their Jest and *Maygame*: At last *Thomas Cholmondly Esq;* took him into his House, and ordered his Steward to try whether he could make any Thing of him, and to teach him to read. But his Stupidity increased; and he could only learn how to hold his Goad right, and drive Oxen at Plow. As he was in the field with the rest of the Servants, he let fall his Goad a sudden, and was again in an Extasy; the Servants ran to him, but to no Purpose, for he so continued for an hour; and then said, *He had seen those Things which never Man saw before. Strict Justice*, said he, *shall bring Order into a confused Nation, and Righteousness and Mercy shall reign when Faction and Rebellion are utterly destroyed.*

While he lived with the Gentleman aforesaid, he foretold the *Civil Wars*, the *Death of King Charles I.* the *Restoration of Charles II.* *King James's Abdication*, the *Revolution*, &c. And, says he, *these Things will certainly happen, as that the King will send for me, and I be starved to Death.* When he had finished his speech, he returned to his natural Dulness and Silence: The Servants came home and told these Things to their Master, who ordered them to write down all they could remember; which is preserved in that Family to this Day.

His grand Prophecy, which hereafter follows, he made while he lived with his Master, *Cholmondley*, which he delivered with as much Gravity and Seriousness, as if he had seen an Oracle; and tho' he was so foolish that he could not speak common Sense at another time, yet, when he delivered this Prophecy, he spoke very plain and sensibly.

Our Prophet *Nixon* lived in the Reign of *K. James*. And one Day coming from Plough, he sat himself down, and continued in a melancholly Posture for some Time; but at length, with a hoarse Voice, he said, *Now I'll prophesy*; and then uttered these Words following,

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WHEN

“ WHEN a Raven shall build in a Stone Lion
 “ Mouth, on the Top of a Church in *Chester*
 “ then a King of *England* shall be driven out of his
 “ Kingdom, and never return more.

“ When an Eagle shall sit on the Top of the House
 “ then an Heir shall be born to *Cholmondley's* Family
 “ and this Heir shall live to see *England* invaded by
 “ Foreigners, who shall proceed as far as a Town in
 “ *Chester*; but a Miller, named *Peter*, shall be born
 “ with two Heels on one Foot, and at that Time living
 “ in a Mill of *Cholmondley's*, he shall be instrumental
 “ in delivering the Nation. The Person who then
 “ governs the Nation, will be in Trouble, and scold
 “ about; the invading King shall be killed, laid across
 “ a Horse's Back like a Calf, and led in Triumph: The
 “ Miller, having been instrumental in it, shall bring
 “ forth the Person that then governs the Kingdom
 “ and be knighted for what he has done; and after
 “ *England* shall see happy Days: A young new Set
 “ Men of virtuous Manners shall come, who shall
 “ prosper, and make a flourishing Church for two
 “ hundred Years.

“ As a Token of the Truth of all this, a Wall
 “ Mr. *Cholmondley's* shall fall: If downwards, the
 “ Church shall be oppressed, and rise no more; but
 “ upwards, then it shall flourish again.

“ Under it will be found the Bones of a British
 “ KING.

“ A Pond shall run with Blood three Days, and
 “ the Cross-stone Pillar in the Forest sink so low into
 “ the Ground, that a Crow from the Top of it shall
 “ drink of the best Blood in *England*.

“ A Boy shall be born with three Thumbs, and shall
 “ hold three KINGS Horses, while *England* shall
 “ three Times be won and lost in one Day.”

The Original of this Prophecy may be seen in several
 Families in this Country: Mr. *Egerton* of *Olton* has
 it, with many other Remarkables; as, that *Peckforton*
Wine

Windmill should be removed to *Luddinton Hill*; that there should be a great Slaughter of Men; that Horses saddled should run about till their Girths rotted away; and that *Olton Mill* should be driven with Blood instead of Water.

Cholmondley is a very ancient Family in *Cheshire*; and the Seat of that Branch of it that kept *Nixon* is at *Vale Royal*. It was formerly an Abbay founded by *Edward I.*

Passages in the Prophecy already fulfilled.

WHEN *Nixon* prophesied, this Family was near extinct; but the Heir having married Sir *Walter St. John's* Daughter, who, being with Child, was in Labour for some Days; at which Time an Eagle sat upon the House-top, and, just as she was delivered, it flew away.

It is also well known, that a Raven built a Nest in a Stone Lion's Mouth in *Over Church-steeple* in the Forest of *De la Mere*.

Not long before the Abdication of King *James*, the *Wall* fell down, and fell upwards; and in the Rubbish were found the Bones of a large Man.

At the same Time a Pond ran with reddish Water, which it never did before or since.

Headless Cross, in the Forest, is now sunk within Half a Foot of the Ground, tho' it was always many Foot deep since the Memory of Man.

At *Budworth* a Boy was born with three Thumbs, and is now living.

And in *Nottinghamshire Mills* there's now a *Miller* whose Name is *Peter*. This *Peter* has two Heels on one Foot; but I find he does not intend to make use of them: For he is a very loyal Subject to King *George*; has a Vote for Knight of the Shire, and always gives it on the right Side: In fine, *Peter* stands up for the good Cause *Nixon* has listed him, in Upon which the Lady *Egerton*, wishing for another Restoration, often perswaded her

Huf-

Husband to turn him out of the *Mill*, but to no Purpose.

I am credibly informed, that the Lady *Narcliff* of *Chelsea*, and the Lady *St. John* of *Battersea*, used to talk of this same *Peter*; and they both asserted the Truth of this Prophecy, and its Accomplishment, with other Remarkables.

The Noise of *Nixon* at last reached the Ears of King *James VI.* who sent for him: But he refused to go, alledging, *That he should be starved.* The King, being informed of *Nixon's* foolish Refusal, said, *He would take care that he should not be starved, and ordered him to be brought up to Town.*—But whether he prophesied to the King, is uncertain; yet he is not the first Fool that has made a good Court-prophet.

Now, that *Nixon* might be the better provided for, he was order'd to be kept in the Kitchen; but he grew so very troublefom in licking and picking the Meat, that the Cooks lock'd him up in a Hole: And the King going suddenly from *Hampton-court* to *London*, they forgot the Fool in the Hurry; so that he was starved to Death at the King's Court, according as he had before foretold.

There are divers Passages of our Prophet's Life and Sayings transmitted from Father to Son in this Country; to wit, That, when he lived with a Farmer, he goated an Ox so unmercifully, that one of the Plowmen threatened to beat him for abusing the Beast. *Nixon* said, *That the Beast should not be his Master's three Days.* Now mark the Event: A Life in an Estate falling at that Time, the Lord of the Manour took the said Ox for an Herriot. As whimsical as this Account may seem to some, it was told to the Lady *Cowper*, in the Year 1670, by Dr. *Patrick* late Bishop of *Ely*, then Chaplain to Sir *Walter St. John*; and that Lady had the following Particulars relating to this Prophecy, and the Fulfilling of many Parts of it, from Madam *Cholmondley's* Sister, who affirmed as follows.

That a Multitude of People gathering together to see the Eagle before-mentioned, the Bird was frightened from

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from her Young; that she herself was one that saw this; and that the Cry among the People was, *Now Nixon's Prophecy is fulfilled, and we shall have a foreign King.* She declared that she had read over the Prophecy divers Times, when her Sister was with Child of the Heir that now enjoys the Estate.

She remembered that King James II. was plainly pointed at, and that it was foretold, *He should endeavour to subvert the Laws and Religion of this Kingdom, for which Reason his Subjects would rise, and turn him out. That the Eagle prophesied of, perch'd in the Window all the Time her Sister was in Labour.* She said, It was the largest Bird she ever saw; and that she and many others have open'd the Window, and endeavour'd to fear it away, but in vain, for 'twould not stir till her Sister was brought to Bed; after which it flew to a great Tree, opposite the Chamber her Sister lay; where it stay'd about three Days, and then flew away in the Night.

She affirmed further to the Lady Cowper, *That the Falling of the Garden-wall was a Thing beyond all Doubt; because many People, now living, remember it: That it was foretold, that the Heir of Vale Royal should live to see England invaded by Foreigners: That the Miller mentioned is alive, and expects to be knighted, and is in the very Mill that is prophesied of: That he should kill two Invaders, who would come in, the one from the West, and the other from the North: That he from the North should bring with him Danes, Germans and Dutch; and that in the Folds of his Garments he should bring Fire and Famine, Plague and Murder: That many Battles should be fought in England; one upon London-bridge, which would be so bloody, that People should ride up to their Horses Bellies in Blood: That several other Battles should be fought up and down most Parts of Cheshire; and that the last that ever should be fought in England, should be on De la Mere Forest: That the Heir of Olton, whose Name is E—, should be hanged up at his own Gate.*

He foretells great Glory and Prosperity to those who stand

stand up in the Defence of their Laws and Liberties, and Ruin and Misery to those that betray them. He says, *The Year before this would happen, Bread should be very dear; and that the Year following more Troubles should begin, which would last three Years; that the first would be moderate, the second bloody, and the third intolerable; and that there were no Mischiefs but what poor England would feel at that Time. But that George the Son of George should put an End to all: And that afterwards the Church should flourish, and England be a happy Nation.*

'Tis observable, that Mr. Cholmondley, going by the Garden-wall the Morning before it fell, said, *I believe Nixon is out in his Prophecy; for he foretold that this Day my Garden-wall should fall down, and I think it looks as if it would stand these forty Years.* But he had not been gone Half an Hour before the Wall fell upwards, which, as Nixon would have it, presaged a flourishing Church. This is the more remarkable, because Workmen were yearly kept to support the Wall, and to inspect it every Month; and, just before it fell, they gave in their Report, that it would last an Hundred Years without Repair.

Peckforton-mill, according to the Prophecy, was removed to Luddinton-hill by Sir John Frew; and Sir John being asked, if he did it to fulfil the Prophecy? he solemnly declared, *He never thought of it.*

Prodigies and Prophecies are no uncommon Things in the County of Cheshire. Camden the Historian tells us, *That at Brereton there is a Thing as strange as the Perching of the Eagle, or Falling of the Wall, which he says is well attested; It is this, That before any Heir of the Family (belonging to the Seat aforesaid) dies, there are seen, in a Lake adjoining, the Bodies of Trees swimming up the Water for several Days together.* This the learned Camden relates in his Description of Cheshire. And the Opinion of the Trees swimming in the Lake aforesaid, prevails all about the Country to this Day; with this Difference only, that some say, 'tis One Log, and others, that 'tis Two Logs that swim.