

A

NARRATIVE

Of a Strange and Sudden

APPARITION

OF AN

ARCH-ANGEL

AT THE

OLD-BAYLY,

ON

Monday *March* the Seventh, 1680. *English* Stile,

BETWIXT

The Hours of Three and Five in the Afternoon, to
the great Astonishment of the COURT and
all that were present.

Dedicated to all the Ministers and Church-wardens
of the whole Nation.

By an Eye-witness of the Apparition. *Dr. Niches*

ROM. ii. 22.

Thou that abhorrest Idols, dost thou commit Sacrilege?

Printed in the Year, 1680.



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A

NARRATIVE

OF A

Strange and sudden *Apparition* of an Arch-Angel at the
Old-Bayly, on Monday March the 7th. 1680.

SINCE Monday the Seventh instant, when Mr. *Sherman* Senior Church-warden of *Alhallows Barkin* pleaded guilty at the *Old-Bayly*, to Mr. *Whitaker's* Indictment (which Mr. **Whitaker* had before indicted the *Lord Bishop of London* for keeping his Courts in his own Name) many of the Parishioners of *Barkin*, and others have complained to Dr. *Hickes* the Minister of *Barkin*, of Mr. *Sherman's* manner of proceeding upon that Indictment (in which the Doctor, Lecturer, and Church-wardens were equally indicted) as having gratified the enemies, and much offended, and scandalized the Friends of the Government, and the Church.

Upon these complaints the Doctor, last Lord's day after Evening Sermon, called a *Vestry*, at which Nineteen of the Principal Persons of the Parish all *Vestry-men* did appear.

As soon as they were set, and had heard the Statute read, upon which the Indictment was grounded, the Doctor upon Mr. *Sherman's* refusal to be present at the *Vestry*, made a report of his proceeding upon the whole matter, telling them that Mr. *Sherman* had acted therein not only without, but expressly against his advice and consent, he having told him the Night before he appeared at the *Old-Bayly*, that he conceived it was their duty to consult the *Vestry* about the manner of proceeding upon that Indictment, and that their defence (in his opinion) was necessary, and easie; Necessary, because otherwise they should render his Majesty's Chappels-royal, the Cathedrals, and Collegiate-Churches and Chappels, and most of the Parish-churches of this City and Kingdom obnoxious to the lash of every factious and disaffected person, upon the account of the Church-ornaments: And Easie, because the Figure, for suffering of which they were Indicted, had not the shape of the Statue of St. *Michael* the *Archangel*, nor was ever reputed the Image, or called by the Name of any Saint whatsoever, but as we could make it appear by the Testimony of Hundreds yet living in the Parish, had been made, and set up (in the late times of *usurpation*) upon the Clock, or Hand-dyal, between *Time* on one hand, and *Death* on the other (whose Figures are yet to be seen) and that when the Clock was set over the Organ about Six years ago, it was set as an ornament over the *Ten Commandments*, where it stood unobserved by himself, and many of his Parishioners till the first report of the Indictment, when Mr. *Sherman* was Foreman of the Grand-Jury, the Sessions before Mr. *Whitaker* did really indict it: He also added, that he then told Mr. *Sherman*, that they had time enough to consult the *Vestry*, and take joynt-measures, being not obliged to answer to the Indictment till the Sessions in *Easter-week*.

That notwithstanding this advice, and entreaties used to Mr. *Sherman* not to appear at the private Sessions occasionally held the next day, that he privily took down the Figure commonly called the Angel (because it had a Trumpet at his mouth, and had written on a label hanging upon his Breast, **ARISE YE DEAD, AND COME TO JUDGMENT**) conveyed it to the *Old-Bayly*, and there pleaded guilty to the Indictment, and after the Court



was risen would have given away the Figure, but that he was forbidden by the worthy Mr. *Hunter* the other Church-warden, who made it be brought back to the Church, from whence on *Wednesday* Morning last, the said Mr. *Sherman*, without the knowledge of the Doctor, or Mr. *Hunter*, privily took it away by a Porter, pretending that Mr. Sheriff *Bethel* had demanded it by virtue of an Order made by the Court for demolishing of it, although the Court upon his pleading Guilty on the one hand, and Mr. Sheriffs urging the destruction of it on the other, could not be prevailed with to make any such Order, thinking the Indictment frivolous and groundless.

After the Doctor had related these, and many other particulars, the Vestry gave him their thanks for his care in this business, and for endeavouring to preserve the Peace, and good order of the Parish, and forthwith resolved (nemine contradicente) *that it was their opinion that Mr. Sherman upon the whole matter had acted arbitrarily and irregularly, and that he ought to have consulted the Vestry, and taken their directions how to proceed upon the Indictment.*

They also (as we are informed) declared that this Order was not intended to preclude them from proceeding further against the said Mr. *Sherman*, as hereafter should be thought fit: And upon this occasion exhorted one another to be very careful, and unanimous in the next Election of their *Vestry-men* in choosing such as were Loyal and good Church-men into the vacant places, whereupon some Knights, and many other Gentlemen of undoubted Loyalty, and adherence to the established Protestant Religion, were mentioned as fit for that trust.

As the Ministers and Church-Wardens of *Barkin* have been Indicted for suffering the Image of *S. Michael* the Arch-Angel; in the Parish-Church, as the Learned Indicter first pleased to call the foresaid Figure: so if he can find colour for it in any old Statute, he may as justly Indict them again for suffering of *Pagan Idols*; for old Time may be presented for *Saturn*, and Death for *Mors*, who with his brother *Erebus* every School-Boy can inform the Grand ----- were famous Deities of old.

And if he please to do so, he may add by the merit of the action to the former reputation, which he hath got by presenting the *Angel*; which after it had escaped the Sentence of destruction, which was hoped for from the Court upon such a surprize, a Gentleman would have bought at the purchase of a Guiny to have set up in his own Parish-Church. I suppose that Gentleman feared not a second Indictment, being either a good Lawyer himself, or as having heard one of the best Lawyers of the Nation, I mean Mr. *Recorder*, reply to one of the Loyal Aldermen, who asked him by what Statute, that Figure produced in the Court, could be Indicted? *By none that he knew.* The same Honourable Alderman asked one, who pleaded hard against the harmless Statue, what that writing was upon his Breast? **ARISE YE DEAD AND COME TO JUDGMENT**, saith he: *Ay, that's it (replied he) which, I fear, offends you, you cannot endure to be reminded of the Last Judgment, the thoughts of it, perhaps, are troublesome unto you:* And when the same Gentleman still persisted to have it Sentenced to the Flames, some remote Voices were heard to say, Let him have it to burn in his Kitchin. I have only one observation to add, That in the beginning of the Late Times the Parish of *Barkin* was the first Parish, and Doctor *Layfeild* late Minister of it, the first Minister of *London*, who was troubled upon the account of some little Images in the work of the Cover of the Font, which the Factious people of that time reproachfully called, *The Gods of Barkin.* God Almighty, who equally hates Sacrilege, and Idolatry, and Schism, and Sedition as much as other sins, divert the *Omen*, and blast the designs of all those on either hand that seek the destruction of this *truly persecuted Church.* Amen.