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THE Discovery of Witches:

IN
Answer to severall *QUERIES*,
LATELY
Delivered to the Judges of Assize for the
County of NORFOLK.

And now published
By *MATTHEW HOPKINS*, Witch-finder.
FOR
The Benefit of the whole *KINGDOME*.

EXOD. 22. 18.
Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

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Answ. The Discoverer never travelled far for it, but in *March* 1644. he had some seven or eight of that horrible sect of Witches living in the Towne where he lived, a Towne in *Essex* called *Manningtree*, with divers other adjacent Witches of other towns, who every six weeks in the night (being alwayes on the Friday night) had their meeting close by his house, and had their severall solemne sacrifices there offered to the *Devill*, one of which this discoverer heard speaking to her *Imps* one night, and bid them goe to another Witch, who was thereupon apprehended, and searched by women who had for many yeares knowne the Devils marks, and found to have three teats about her, which honest women have not: so upon command from the *Justice*, they were to keep her from sleep two or three nights, expecting in that time to see her *familiars*, which the fourth night she called in by their severall names, and told them what shapes, a quarter of an houre before they came in, there being ten of us in the roome, the first she called was

1. *Holt*, who came in like a white kitling.
2. *Jermara*, who came in like a fat Spaniel without any legs at all, she said she kept him fat, for she clapt her hand on her belly, and said he sucked good blood from her body.
3. *Vizzor Tom*, who was like a long-legg'd Greyhound, with an head like an Oxe, with a long taile and broad eyes, who when this discoverer spoke to, and bade him goe to the place provided for him and his Angels, immediately transformed himselfe into the shape of a child of foure yeeres old without a head, and gave halfe a dozen turnes about the house, and vanished at the doore.
4. *Sack and Sugar*, like a black Rabbet.
5. *Newes*, like a Polcat. All these vanished away in a little time. Immediately after this Witch confessed severall other Witches, from whom she had her *Imps*, and named to divers women where their marks were, the number of their *Markes*, and *Imps*, and *Imps* names, as *Elemauzer*, *Pyewacker*, *Peckin the Crown*, *Grizzel Greedign*, &c. which no mortall could invent, and upon their searches the same Markes were found, the same number, and in the same place, and the like confessions from them of the same *Imps*, (though they knew not that we were told before) and so peached

peached one another thereabouts that joyned together in the like damnable practise, that in our Hundred in *Essex*, 29. were condemned at once, 4. brought 25. Miles to be hanged, where this Discoverer lives; for sending the *Devill* like a Beare to kill him in his garden, so by seeing diverse of the *Devils* Papps, and trying wayes with hundreds of them, he gained this experience, and for ought he knowes any man else may find them as well as he and his company, if they had the same skill and experience.

Quer. 5. Many poore People are condemned for having a Pap, or Teat about them, whereas many People (especially ancient People) are, and have been a long time troubled with naturall wrests on severall parts of their bodies, and other naturall excreffencies, as *Hemerodes*, *Piles*, *Childbearing*, &c. and these shall be judged only by one man alone, and a woman, and so accused or acquitted.

Answ. The parties so judging can justify their skill to any, and shew good reasons why such markes are not meerly naturall, neither that they can happen by any such naturall cause as is before expressed, and for further answer for their private judgements alone, it is most false and untrue, for never was any man tryed by search of his body, but commonly a dozen of the ablest men in the parish or else where, were present, and most commonly as many ancient skillfull matrons and midwives present when the women are tryed, which marks not only he, and his company attest to be very suspicious, but all beholders, the skillfullest of them, doe not approve of them; but likewise assent that such tokens cannot in their judgements proceed from any the above mentioned Causes.

Quer. 6. It is a thing impossible for any man or woman to judge rightly on such marks, they are so neare to naturall excreffencies, and they that finde them, durst not presently give Oath they were drawne by evill spirits, till they have used unlawfull courses of torture to make them say any thing for ease and quiet, as who would not do? but I would know the reasons he speakes of, how, and whereby to discover the one from the other, and so be satisfied in that.

Answ. The reasons in breefe are three, which for the present he judgeth to differ from naturall marks, which are, 1. He judgeth by the unusualnes of the place where he findeth the teats in or on their

their bodies, being farre distant from any usuall place, from whence such naturall markes proceed, as if a witch plead the markes found are Emerods, if I finde them on the bottome of the back-bone, shall I asseure with him, knowing they are not neere that veine, and so others by child-bearing, when it may be they are in the contrary part?

2. They are most commonly insensible, and feele neither pin, needle, aule, &c. thrust through them.

3. The often variations and mutations of these marks into severall formes, confirms the matter; as if a Witch hear a month or two before that the *Witch-finder* (as they call him) is coming, they will, and have put out their Imps to others to suckle them, even to their owne young and tender children; these upon search are found to have dry skines and filmes only, and be close to the flesh, keepe her 24. houres with a diligent eye, that none of her Spirits come in any visible shape to suck her; the women have seen the next day after her Teats extended out to their former filling length, full of corruption ready to burst, and leaving her alone then one quarter of an houre, and let the women go up againe, and shee will have them drawn by her Imps close againe: *Probatum est.* Now for answer to their tortures in its due place:

Quer. 7. How can it possibly be that the Devill being a spirit, and wants no nutriment or sustentation, should desire to suck any blood? and indeed as he is a Spirit he cannot draw any such extrefferences, having neither flesh nor bone, nor can be felt, &c.

Ans. He seekes not their blood, as if he could not subsist without that nourishment, but he often repairs to them, and gets it, the more to aggravate the Witches damnation, and to put her in mind of her *Covenant*: and as he is a Spirit and Prince of the ayre, he appears to them in any shape whatsoever, which shape is occasioned by him through joyning of condensed thickned aire together, and many times doth assume shapes of many creatures; but to create any thing he cannot do it, it is only proper to God: But in this case of drawing out of these Teats, he doth really enter into the body, reall, corporeall, substantiall creature, and forceth that Creature (he working in it) to his desired ends, and useth the organs of that body to speake withall to make his compact

fact up with the Witches, be the creature Cat, Rat, Mouse, &c.

Quer. 8. When these Paps are fully discovered, yet that will not serve sufficiently to convert them, but they must be tortured and kept from sleep two or three nights, to distract them, and make them say any thing; which is a way to tame a wilde Colt, or Hawk, &c.

Ans. In the infancy of this discovery it was not only thought fitting, but enjoyned in *Essex* and *Suffolke* by the Magistrates, with this intention only, because they being kept awake would be more the active to cal their Imps in open view the sooner to their helpe, which oftentimes have so happened; and never or seldome did any Witch ever complaine in the time of their keeping for want of rest, but after they had beat their heads together in the Goale; and after this use was not allowed of by the Judges and other Magistrates, it was never since used, which is a yeare and a halfe since, neither were any kept from sleep by any order or direction since; but peradventure their own stubborn wills did not let them sleep, though tendered and offered to them.

Quer. 9. Beside that unreasonable watching, they were extraordinarily walked, till their feet were blistered, and so forced through that cruelty to confesse, &c.

Ans. It was in the same beginning of this discovery, and the meaning of walking of them at the highest extent of cruelty, was only they to walke about themselves the night they were watched, only to keepe them waking: and the reason was this, when they did lye or sit in a chaire, if they did offer to couch downe, then the watchers were only to desire them to sit up and walke about, for indeed when they be suffered so to couch, immediately comes their Familiars into the room and scaereth the watchers, and heartneth on the Witch, though contrary to the true meaning of the same instructions, diverse have been by rusticall People, (they hearing them confesse to be Witches) mis-used, spoiled, and abused, diverse whereof have suffered for the same, but could never be proved against this Discoverer to have a hand in it, or consent to it; and hath likewise been un-used by him and others, ever since the time they were kept from sleepe.