

of the wisest Nations which punish them severely, and the
 Many sentences of death pronounced by wise and Reverend
 Judges upon Fleas and Gnats Evidenced against Witches
 Let us now weigh the General Arguments that the afore-
 Said Learned and Ingenious Men use for beating down the
 Received belief of witchcrafts They say, if there are Actions
 Ascribed to witches which being Redundant and Impossib^{le}
 in the Nature of things and above the power of those Mis-
 rable Agents must be the effect of Gods Grace and the
 Power of a Great Imagination and Melancholy, which can do
 Strange things and best Wondrousful performances. So that
 a Judge who brings a Witch will soon be thought a Fool
 if it is answered, if the Strange Actions Related of Witches
 are not ascribed to their own power but to the Agency
 of those Confederates they Employ, whose power in the
 Matter is not to be denied simply because we cannot
 Conceive it. We should Judge of the Action by the Evidence
 and not of the Evidence for all that is by our senses
 fancied about the Actions of All but some things may pro-
 ceed from a Disturbed or Depraved Fancy, we cannot be ho-
 nably Justly blamed that all is from Superstition and
 that witchcraft is but a fanciful Conceit. There are
 hundreds of Instances wherein the Matter of fact will not
 stand of their plea of Imagination. Can we think that
 Imagination should be so wide so Many as have been wit-
 nessed in objects of sense in all the Circumstances of
 Discovery & to deny Evidence of fact because the Related
 Imagination may do so wide harm, when we have no Reason
 to think so, is quite to destroy all humane Testimony
 and to make all Men liars in a larger Sense than the
 proper Psalm. 116. 11. Concluded in his hands. For not
 only the Melancholy and Fanciful, but the Grave and
 the sober, whose Judgments we have no Reason to sus-
 pect to be tainted by their Imaginations, have from
 their own knowledge and Experience made Reports
 of this Nature. Upon the whole of shall only Desire
 those who make this objection to Remember that
 Eminent amongst a People Doctor who justly
 Suffered death for witchcraft and did himself Confess

Confessed that the part he engaged to Act in the Devils
 Service, was to persuade and preach that witchcraft was
 only, silly Beliefs Melancholy and Old Fables. Namor, daniel
 = mid. So that a Judge who doth not hang a Witch upon
 such fair proof and shewful evidences as the Matter will
 bear His Authority and force neither acts according to
 the Law of God nor Man.

2^d If those who are supposed to be witches had any
 Real power given them from Satan to do mischief, they
 might Exert this power upon such as are of Reason and
 Understanding to tell what they did. Fools as they are
 Commonly Said to work upon Children, or Ignorant
 People who are easily imposed upon, and apt to Receive
 Strong Impressions from No thing. It is impossible of
 the Confessors we deal most frequently with
 Children and weak persons, partly, because those persons
 Receive the greater Influence and Impressions, partly
 to show themselves doubly Mischievous, being at the
 same time they hurt the parents who Supportive
 their little ones, and in a manner that the same Witches
 that they do. 2^d The Witches are supposed to work most
 upon those who are not come to Maturity of Years,
 yet it cannot be denyed, that they have frequently done
 harm to those that are Adult and are of Strength and
 firmness of body, as is Evident from a boundless
 Instance. 3^d The opinion of Witches seems to be
 Evident, that it Expects Infants to the fury and Malice
 of Revengeful spirits, who the best Devised to be
 to by that Providence that superintends all things
 must need its guardian Influences. It is answered, provided
 being an Unsearchable depth, we are not to doubt the
 Phenomena of our senses, we can Reconcile them to our
 notions of Providence. Nor are Infants more secured from
 other Violence by fire and sword in the case of wars and
 Massacres, then they are from Injuries by witchcraft. If
 it be good with, as we say it is, to suffer oppressors
 tyrants and Men of blood and cruelty
 upon the earth, and to let them Dominate
 Weak and Guiltless and let the part of Devils, it