

it is not to be wondered at, that he promised the Devils themselves to be left and approved such for his wife and children.

9/ If Witches spirits can either by themselves or by Direction and at the Desire of a Witch hurt and injure persons it is a wonder that we are not always annoyed and persecuted by them. It is answered, that we have not the Devils to thank that we are not constantly plagued by them in the same Manner they can imagine. For they have not an Unlimited Power to do what Mischiefs they please. No, they are influenced and Act nothing without Divines permission, as we see in the cases of Job. (Job. ii. 12. — 2. 5. And the Gadon in Gen. (Mark. 5. 12. 13) their power is limited, their Jurisdiction & Dominion are within certain Bounds set them by God, which they are not able to exceed or go beyond. And the wife Governour of the world permits them to Act in the World nor they, in order to great necessary ends, be good not in the mean time the Rain out of his own hand, but should and Enslaves them as he thin he fits. However onely Confines our security against the Dangerous attacks of Hellish Agents.

5/ It is a suspicious Circumstance, that witches are not so but a fancy, since the persons that are accused are commonly Meseable old Women who are over grown with Discontent and Melancholy, and so propose strange things to their Minds, and take their Dreams to be truths, or really believe them selves guilty of what others lay to the Charge, tho' there is no ground for it. And since it is so and poverty are the sin of witchcraft: Who as we see these any such thing really, desirous likely that the more cunning and subtle Devils would who might more perfectly carry on the Mischievous designs of the dark Kingdom, would be often engaged in those black Confessions. It is answered, 1/ Several persons have been found guilty of witchcraft and Magial practices, that have not been poor nor Melancholy, as appears from the several Histories and Relations about these matters. And outward Good men make Devils hath been prosperously and by the business of their Behaviour, it shall be too soon that they were not over them with black-bills.

Also, that their liquor was rather sanguine 2/ Granting that the Generality of witches are of mean Condition and of a Dark Complexion, yet it is no way prejudicial to the truth of the Being of Witches, but rather confirms it. For Melancholy persons void of all sense of what is good and virtuous, find way themselves to be in Excommunication, call, as it were, to the Infernal Spirit for aid and assistance, who is all ways present hand and ready to gratify such Discontented souls. Besides a strong Imagination which cannot be disturbed by a subtle Ratiocination is necessary to the Devils Witches performance: seeing those who abound most in the Imaginative faculty, do not ordinarily succeed in the Rational, so as to be able to be but but justified.

6/ Many of the stories concerning Witches and their bewitching people, are found to be ridiculous and impossible. Witness the strange lives of Elizabeth Barton or the Maid of Kent, Mistris Morington, William Sommers of Notting-ham, the Boy of Norwich, the Lancashire witch William Ham, the Boy of Norwich, and Richard Hall a way, Berry or the Boy of Bilson, and Richard Hall a way, collected by Dr. Heatclinson (Histor. Essay Concerning Witchcraft chap. 15); and All others are presumed to be of the same Quality and Credit. Again, the Popish Inquisitions were excited by their Ravings and Confessions, that toom many for Magial practices, that they might by that means wreck their Malice on them, or made some Advantage by their deaths. And besides, Delius and Spranger from whom we have such stories were persons who served the Inquisition, and advanced the cause of Popery and Superstition with some balance of Magial and Witchcraft. It is answered, grant that some seeming Miracles, to give Occasion of showing more than a false-follower follows no more that all was false and Misdeception. So much will not hinder our belief of those that are true and Real. He respects the Benefit of his own light, who thinks that he