

The Athenian Mercury.

Qu. 1. *IS a high dress, more Culpable than a high crown'd Hat? And why? Since I have seen the extravagance of the last reprehended in an old Sermon, Preach'd by Bishop Jewel, if I am not mistaken; but I am sure the Book wherein I observ'd it, is chain'd in Kensington Church.*

Ans. See Volume. N—Q—

We shall here according to our promise, Vol. II. give a full and true Relation of a strange account which, as a Supplement to our paper of Apparitions and Witches, we offer to the Impartial Considerations of our Modern Seducers; who deny the existence of Witches, Spirits, &c. The whole Relation and Affidavits hereafter are Originals, and we have also had a more particular Account from the Captain of the Ship, Viva voce, because we would neither be impos'd upon our selves, or be accessory to the imposing upon others.

The Relation, Verbatim is.

MEmorandum: That on the twenty first of October, 1674. putting forth from Plymouth into the Sea, with the Ship Recovery of London: John Wood Commander bound to Virginia, we had very bad Winds at West South West, and at South, with bad weather, that all our Fore Shrouds broke at times, being good Ropes, our Top-mast broke twice, our Mizzen yard broak, our Spritsle yard washt from the Boultspreet, one Main and two Foretops split, most of our running Rigging shatter'd, the Ships planks working from the Stern-post, our Men tyred with working: Fair weather or foul, it was all one, what was mended one day, would the next day be in pieces: In this Condition we put in to the Road of Fiall, in hopes to mend our Gear: But being bad weather for six or seven days, that we were like to lose the Ship, scarce able to get up our Anchors, though all at ground, our best Bower Cable broak, the Buoy under Water, at a high Water, which at half Ebb bearing, and good weather, our Boat went to the Buoy, and taking hold of the Rope, of seven Inches and a half, almost new, hal'd it up, having no hold of the Anchor which we lost; the Ship rowling Excessively, Sea or no Sea: Upon this the Master ordered his Mate to get up the other two Anchors, and stand off and on the Road, untill he went with the Pinnace to Clear the Ship with the Counsel; but proving Calm, the Ship drove to Sea: The Master sending two Poartagees Boats with Wines after her, could not reach the Ship, she drove so fast out. The mean time the Pinnace grabnels would not hold, that she drove ashoar and sunk, breaking the hoodings to one Strake of her Keel,

upward from the Stem: The People on Shoar telling us we had a Witch aboard: After much pains, the Master and Men with the Boat put from the Shoar, before Night the Ship two Leagues at Sea, which at midnight got near the Road: The Pinnace put aboard another Ship; not being able to swim; the next Morning, by Day-light the Carpenter wrought on her; and at nine of the Clock, turned her in the Water, and going to Leeward of the Island, not seeing the Ship, we put into Port with the said Pinnace, and went up a very High Mountain, where we could see the Ship five Leagues to Leeward; plying up, the Ship drove five Leagues out in four or five Hours Calm, which is Admirable. Upon sight of the Ship, we put to Sea with the Boat, making a Sail with three Bisquet Bags and one Oar for a gard, with which through Gods great Mercy we reacht the Ship, the Wind fresh at North-East, the said Ship accidentally Tacking, fetcht the Boat; which if the Ship had stood but one hour longer, and then Tackt, she had weathered the Boat out of Sight, that undoubtedly we had all Perisht, being very Leack, that we continuall hove the Water out with Rundlers, and incapable to row; when we were well on Board, and the Boat in the Ship, bearing away our Course, we began to consider our Miserable Trouble and loss of Time Anchor and Wine. One of our Passenger fell from the Ship, and was drowned. Thus being again at Sea, we fell to our old Trade of brakeing Shrouds, Chane, Boults and Plates, Rigging and Sails: Infomuch, that neither Iron, Wood, Ropes, or Canvas would hold, our Shrouds drows through, and breaks the Seazings, that they be always so slack, and not stretching, that it is a wonder the low Masts are not lost: Notwithstanding we new Seaze them, and set them up often. Our Fore-yard broke with little Wind, the Eye-boult of the Mizzen Sheet broke, the Sheet was flown, the Sail split to Flitters: Our best Hollands Duck Mane Sail the Foot-rope broak at the weather Clew, a Special good, great Rope, the Sail split and blew away with a Foretop-Sail: Our double Dore-Course split in the same nature; but we saved the Canvas, our Mane and Fore-sheets broke, the Jears and Straps of the Jear blocks brake, that our low Yards came down upon the Deck, our Sprit-Sale split our new Duck, the Maintop-sail giving way, often our Tiller broak in the Rudder Head; The Maintop-sail Barrel, held in a fresh Gale many times, at last setting him with little Wind, the parrel then firm: In an hours time the Rope drew through the Racking, that the Sail hung from the Mast by the Tye, the Rope and Racking whole, we met with a Fly-Boat

Boat bound for *Virginia*, but could not keep her Company; though he made but little Sail: For every Night procured the Days work following, the Weather Fair or Foul, our Men all Sick, but the Master, Doctor and Steward, blessed be God, none of our Seamen dying, but very Weak and Lame: Only one Man with a rowl of the Ship was flung from the Head of the Maintop-mast, making fast the Topgallon Sail which blew loose, and was drowned under the Ships Stern; and another tumbled over the waist before Day in a Calm, and was drowned: We lay continually in such a distraction in the Trough of the Sea, and sometimes before the wind with no Sail, that had not the Ship been an extraordinary strong Ship, she could not have swom with us; the third of *October* 1674. at three or four a Clock in the Afternoon, our Carpenters Mate told our Master, our Ship was Bewitched by one Witch aboard, and two in *England*: And that we should not get to *Virginia*, but lye and spend our Provision and Liquor in the Sea, and have no Men left to help us, unless we bore away in time for some other Port, for which we should not want a fair Wind four and twenty hours, God sending us there. Our Master questioning him how he understood this business, he answered; those often and unusual Accidents attending us, continually gave him Occasion fervently to call upon God, beging of him to Reveal to some body the Reason of our Miseries, and that accordingly in Prayers the Particulars above mentioned, were revealed to him. Upon this Information, our Master observing *Elizabeth Masters* Posture, being on her Knees on the Forecastle, with her hands up, as if she were at Prayers, with her Elbows between the kenels, where we were going to belay the Tack of our single small Foresale, which was now brought to our Main-yard, no Female being upon Deck but her self, our said Master calling down presently, said to several People, he feared that she was the Witch, wishing she had no intent of Mischief to the Tack to which the Sail was their belayed, at Eleven a Clock at Night, the Master found the said *Masters* by her self upon the Deck, all the rest of the Passengers in their Cabbins, in the Morning after Day light, the said Tack broak in little Wind, it formerly holding a double Sail one third bigger, and in much more Wind, we hal'd up our Sail, and bract it to the Mast, bent the Tack again, and got it aboard them; then rang the Bell to Prayers. Our Gunner calling the Passengers, sick and well up, the said Master as one startled at it? What is the matter, Gunner, who answered, you must all to Prayers, she seeming blank, said no more, but was one of the first up, being observed to sit all the time in a very careless Posture. At last the Foot-Rope of the Mane or rather Foresail broke in the Clew, it being little wind as the others formerly did, and split, but we saved the Canvas: Upon this Suspicion, our Master Apprehended, and clapt the said *Masters* in Chain at a Gun in the Stearidge, as

ter which Apprehending of her: These particulars hereafter written, followed:

Memorandum, that same time after the Ship *Recovery* of *London*, bore up for the *West-Indies*: We Rumaged to know what Beer and Water was in the said Ship, and found seven full Buts of Water, and three of Beer; and that in the time of spending two of the Buts of Water, two and a half of the Buts of Beer was strangely out, with two Buts of Water; that there was left but half a But of Beer, and three Buts of Water, that in the Evening before we see the Land of *Defeado* in the *West-Indies*, there was two full Buts of Water left, and the next Morning the Water in both them was likewise out and lost, with the prints of the Claws of some Creature, as a Cat or the like, left upon the Hoops of the said Water-Cask, and that we seeing of the Land the same Morning, got into *Marigalant*, with about one Hundred and thirty People, and not above three Gallons of Water left us, no Sign of Leakadge, by wet about any of the Cask, two hours before we see the Land, our Fore-yard broke in a strong place, no Ropes left us to hall up a Sail, that we were forced to lower our yards to Stow our Sails.

William Rennols Passenger on Board the Ship
Recovery of *London*, maketh Oath.

That in the Month of *October*, 1674. in the Night, *Elizabeth Masters* came to him as he lay in his Cabbins, between the Decks of the said Ship, and called him this Deponent by his Name, who answered her the said *Masters*: This Deponent farther saith, that then the said *Masters* said to him, will you be of my Gang? and if you will, you shall not want for Gold or Money: Saying, she was with this Deponents Mother, but the Night before. This Deponent farther saith, that he said to the said *Masters*, no truly, I will not have to do with you: This Deponent farther saith, that the said *Elizabeth Masters* told him his Mother was a Witch, and if he would be of her Gang, he should go out of the said Ship, and see his Mother when he pleased: This Deponent farther saith, that his own Mother was a very Lewd Liver, and kept a Brothel House in Dog and Bitch yard, *London*, and would often in the Night go abroad, and come home very bloody, and that the said *Elizabeth Masters* lived with his said Mother.

The Mark of William—Rennols.
John Hall Passenger on Board the Ship *Recovery* of *London*, maketh Oath.

That on or about the twenty third of *October*, 74. He this Deponent did see in the Night, between the Decks of the said Ship, two things like black Cats, which presently ran into a Scupper-hole, he this Deponent catching at them, but mist them: This Deponent farther saith, that the next Night he desired to Watch with a Sword in his Hand, to see if he could see any more Cats: This Deponent farther saith, that accordingly he did

did watch, and that then, about Eight of the Clock in the evening, he did see in the Great Cabbin of the said Ship, something in the shape of a great Black Cat: And this Deponent farther saith, That he did then and there with the said Sword strike at the said Cat three blows, and, to his thinking, hit her every blow; and so it vanished: And this Deponent farther saith, That there was not, to his knowledge, any Cat in the Ship, and farther sayeth not.

John Hall.

Matthew Lewis Passenger on board the Ship Recovery of London, from Marigalant to Barbadoes, maketh Oath,

That on, or about the 24th of January, 1675. as the Ship was at Anchor at the Island *Marigalant*, he the said Deponent, did then on board the said Ship, see a thing about the bigness of a Cat, which looked him in the Face, and that it came out of the Steeridge of the said Ship where *Elizabeth Masters* lay Chain'd, and at his, this Deponents Cry, passed forward and vanished: but farther saith not.

Martha Jeffres Passeng. on Board the Ship Recovery, maketh Oath,

That on, or about the 8th day of Oct. 74, near Noon, she, this Deponent, went into the Steeridge of the said Ship, where *Elizabeth Masters* lay Chained; and that the said *Masters* then, and there, asked her, this Deponent, If the Wind was fair for the Ship? who answered, She knew not: The said *Masters* voluntarily saying, That the said Ship should never get to *Virginia*, nor to any other place: but should lye tumbling in the Sea until the People were almost famisht for want of Victuals and Water: And this Deponent farther saith, That this, the said *Elizabeth Masters* farther said, That the said Ship never should get to *England*, unless some place of the Ship was opened; and that the Master should have a worse passage home than he had out, saying, That she would Drown him, the said Master, if she could; and be revenged of some other person in the said Ship, if she lived. This Deponent farther saith, That the said *Elizabeth Masters* came to her to her Cabbin, between the Decks of the said Ship, at Midnight, about the middle of the Month of October 74. and desired her to go to *London* in a Coach, which she would provide for her, with four black Horses, to fetch on board the Ship, *Mary*, living in *Dog and Bitch yard, London*: She, this Deponent, farther saith, she accordingly to this *Elizabeth Masters* second request, went into a Coach, with four black Horses the same night, and was conveyed out of one of the upper Decks Gun-ports of the said Ship, into a dark Room, which, after a little time, was light, with a Fire in the Chimney: She, this Deponent, farther saith, she stayed there a small time, speaking to the said *Mary*, to whom she was sent, telling her, that *Elizabeth Masters* would speak with her; the which said *Mary* answered her, That she knew where she was,

and would come that night in a Coach to her the said *Masters*: This Deponent farther saith, That the time she stayed in the aforesaid Room, she did see many black shagged Dogs, and that at her return to the said Ship again, she, this Deponent brought with her aboard the said Ship in the said Coach, several Men and Women. This Deponent farther saith, That the said *Elizabeth Masters* sent a Woman with her, who turned like a Bullock when she talked with the aforesaid *Mary*; and that ending her discourse with *Mary*, she, the said Woman, which turned like a Bullock, turning again like a Woman, said to this Deponent, Will you be as I am, and you shall want for nothing; you shall live as if you were in Heaven, and keep a Maid. This Deponent farther saith, That on or about the 21th of October 1674. at Midnight, a Cat carryed her on her back, from her Cabbin, up the Steeridge Scuttle, so through into the Fore-castle to eate her self and from thence into the Steeridge again; where a Woman, a stranger, tempted her, this Deponent, to turn; who still refusing, the said Woman vanish'd. This Deponent farther saith, That the said *Masters* told her, That if she should tell either the Captain, or any other body in the Ship of what had past, she, the said *Masters*, would torment her night and day: This Deponent farther saith, That the said *Elizabeth Masters* saith, she will dye before she will Confess any thing; but farther saith not.

The Mark of Martha Jeffres.

Frederick Johnson, Quarter-master on board the Ship Recovery of London, maketh Oath,

That on, or about the 6th day of December, he, this Deponent, about Eleven of the Clock at night, sitting in the Steeridge, on board the Ship. Smoking Tobacco; See a thing, in the Shape of a Black Cat, come from the place where *Elizabeth Masters* was Chained, crossing the Steeridge, and went out of the dores upon the Deck. This Deponent farther saith, That on, or about the middle of January, as the said Ship was at Anchor at the Island of *Marigalant*, the Main-yard lowred down; he, this Deponent, in the night, did see the Larboard Yard-arm of the said Main-yard, full of Men, as if they were furling the Sayls; this Deponent declaring, he stood upon the Quarter-deck near, and viewing them, for the space of half a quarter of an hour; at last all vanished: And he this Deponent farther saith, That there was not, to his knowledge, any Cat in the Ship, but farther saith not.

Frederick Johnson.

William Goodfellow, Cooper, on board the Ship Recovery of London, maketh Oath,

That as he lay in the Great Cabbin of the said Ship, on, or about the 22th of December, near midnight, something passed over him very hard, that it left the print of a Cat's Foot, or the like, in the flesh of his Thigh, through his Cloaths: This Deponent farther

ther says; That a night or two after, he did, then and there, in the said Great Cabin, see the Shape of a great Black Cat, which, one of the Passengers on board the said Ship, *John Hall* by Name, having a Sword in his hand, struck; and, to this Deponent's thinking, hit her the said Cat two or three blows, and then it vanished: but farther sayeth not.

The Mark of William Goodfellow.

Mary Leare Passeng. on board the Ship Recovery of London, maketh Oath,

That in the Moneth of December 1674, she was dreadfully Pinched at the small of her Back, Hips and Buttocks: This Deponent farther saith, That she was very desirous to get blood of *Elizabeth Masters*, believing it was she that Pinched and Bewitch't her; the which blood, the said Deponent saith, She did fetch of the said *Masters*, and from that to this time hath gained her health, and been at quiet, but farther sayeth not.

The Mark of Mary Leare.

John Westrow Passing on board the said Ship, maketh Oath,

That on, or about the 23d of December, 74. he, this Deponent, standing behind *Elizabeth Masters*, where she lay in Chains, in the Steeridge of the said Ship, it being after a Sick Man had pricked her, to get her blood; which said Sick Man often declared, he see her, the said *Masters* Pinch him in his Cabin, between the Decks of the said Ship; which said Man is now dead: He, the said Deponent, farther saith, He did then and there hear the said *Elizabeth Masters* say, You prick and punish me, but you do not punish *Martha*, who went the other night to London.

The Mark of John Westrow.

Remarks upon the first Deposition.

TIs an Egregious Cheat the Devil puts on 'em, making 'em believe, they enjoy such and such Treasures, Entertainments, &c. which is evidently false, by their being always Lean and Poor; 'Tis also observ'd, that 'tis not Whores, which commonly turn to Witches; but, such persons as tempt God, by despairing of Necessaries, &c. for this Life; and also such as are very Malicious and Revengeful, as may be gathered from all the Eminent Tryals of Witches.

Remarks upon the second Deposition.

These Apparitions are not the real Parties chang'd into such Creatures, for the Witches are always Exanimated at such times, and their Bodies at home appearing to be dead, as we have given Instances of such as have been watch't; such was the Woman imploy'd, by the French King, to fetch him Fruits a great way off in a little time; she was exanimated, and in the mean time was blooded, and her Arm bound up again; and when she came to her self, she confidently affirm'd she had been there, and had seen such and such things; when 'twas the Devil,

or her Spirit in some Airy Vehicle, not her self.

Remarks upon the third Deposition.

'Twas no Cheat, being seen by many; the Captain himself says, He saw it.

Remarks upon the fourth Deposition.

This is a further Confirmation, with an Addition of more Apparitions in Humane Shape; This shews there are Wizards as well as Witches—'Tis probable they were the Spirits of the Confederates. See the second Remark.

Remarks on the fifth Deposition.

As this strengthens the Credit of the fore-mention'd Depositions, so it offers an Argument, never to be disputed against. We will allow Fancy may do much to the representing of the things, but it cannot pain a Man to make him Cry, nor wound him with shapes of Cats's feet, &c. The Captain (as himself told me) and all in the Ship heard him Cry, and all saw the Impression upon his Thigh.

Remarks upon the sixth Deposition.

She cou'd not be pinch'd and abus'd by her own Fancy, though it were possible she might be deceiv'd in her Sight; every one saw the Marks.

Remarks on the seventh and eighth Depositions.

'Tis a great Question, Whether the Devil can use any Art to save a Person from expiring, in so swift a Motion as this must be, we believe not; but rather that this *Martha* was her self deceiv'd, and was really a *W—ch*: (For the Captain told me, he heard that she was afterwards burnt for a *W—ch*. 'Tis probable, all that she thought, said and did, was Delusion, and Suggested to her Fancy by the Devil. All power whatever, that Witches or Devils have over Persons, or their Goods, is Permissive, and not Originally their own: and it has been experimentally known by several Instances, that such Persons as have been least afraid of 'em, have escap't better, than those that have been more afraid of them than of God; who therefore, or for some other secret ends, best known to himself, does sometimes suffer such things for his own Glory—We have not Room, or we might enlarge upon that part of the Relation, as speaks of fetching Blood, viz. That 'tis unlawful, and a breach of the Sixth Command, as well as all other tricks of Boyling Urine, burning Clothes, Hats, Needles, Horshoes, &c. 'tis an unaccountable wickedness, and a running to the Devil, to be cur'd of the Distemper.

To which, for Parity of Matter, we shall add the Three following Accounts sent us by other Hands.

Qu. 1. Gentlemen, Perusing your Tuesdays Athenian Mercury, and perceiving your design of publishing to the World, An account of Witches, and observing your Request, puts me upon sending you a true and certain Account, of a very strange and unusual thing, that happened very lately, within this moneth or six

weeks, in a Family that resides in Aldermanbury, the persons Names I conceal, by reason they are people of Fashion, and desire not to be made publick; the Account is this, viz. They were first molested and troubled with such Swarms of Lice, both about themselves, and in all the Furniture of their House, as in their Bedding, Hangings, Chairs, &c. that they could not get rid of 'em for a great while; they were so troublesome, that above twenty of them would be crawling about their Faces while they have been at Meals; and these Vermin were so swift in their motion, that they could not hold them between their fingers; after some time they had been troubled with these, they were no sooner rid of them, but they were haunted with crooked Pins, being scattered up and down their House, being crook'd after an unusual manner, in great numbers; their Clothes were strangely and antickly pinn'd, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another, not discerning who did it; their Stockins have been pinn'd together, so that they could not stir one leg before the other; and one of the Family have been struck blind several times in a day, as if their Eyes had been pinn'd together; and several other Circumstances that is too long here to relate: Now I would know your Judgments about this, and from what cause it may proceed.

Ans. We believe that the Relation (if true) is Witchcraft: for the ordinary Chain of Causes has no such Caprices in't: and nothing has more of the Antick in't than that Sin.

Quest. 2. Two Persons of Quality (both not long since deceased) were Intimate Acquaintance, and Lov'd each other intirely; it so fell out, that one of 'em fell sick of the Small-pox, and desired mightily to see the other; who would not come, fearing the catching of them. The Afflicted at last dyes of them, and had not been buried very long, but appears at the others house, in the dress of a Widdow, and asks for her Friend, who then was at Cards, but sends down her Woman to her to know her business, who, in short, told her, she must impart it to none but her Lady, who, after she had received this Answer bid her Woman have her into a Room, and desired her to stay till the Game was done, and she would wait on her: the Game being done, down stairs she came to the Apparition, to know her business; Madam (says the Ghost, turning up her Vail, and her Face appearing full of the Small-pox) you know very well that you and I Loved Intirely, and your not coming to see me I took so ill at your hands, that I could not rest till I had seen you; and now I am come to tell you, that you have not long to live, therefore prepare to dye; and when you are at a Feast, and make the Thirteenth Person in Number, then remember my words: And so the Apparition vanished. To conclude, she was at the Feast where she made the Thirteenth Person in Number, and was after asked by the Deceaseds Brother, whether his Sister did appear to her, as it was reported? but she made him no Answer, but fell a weeping, and dyed in a little time after. The Gentleman that told this Story, says, That there is hardly any Person of Quality but what knows it to be true.

Ans. We have already given our O-

pinion of such Instances as these. See Vol. N.—2.—

Quest. 3. About eight years since I dwelt in a Country Town, six miles distant from the City of York; a young Man, of my acquaintance, who lived in the same Town, being inform'd, that upon every St. Mark's-day at night, between the hours of eleven and twelve, the Spirits of all those who should depart the ensuing year, came to the Church belonging to the place where they dwelt; he being desirous to know the certainty of this report, went, with one of his Acquaintance, to the Church, and about eleven at night placed himself just by the door; a little after he see his Grandmother (with whom he then lived) make to the door of the Church, to whom it seem'd to open; the Woman being old and decrepid, always went with two Crutches, as she past by her Grandson, she struck at him with one, and so went into the Church, but he felt nothing of the blow: about an hour after he went home, and going through a long Entry, which led to the Room where she lay, he see her, in the very same likeness, walk before him, and at the door she vanish'd: he went immediately on, and found her sleeping in bed; about a quarter of a year after she fell sick and dyed. Why upon that night, and no other, the Spirits of those that depart, appear? And why they always go to the Church, or your Opinion thereon?

Ans. We our selves know some such passages, and have Convers'd with the Persons that say, they have made such Tryals; but they have been such as have had very weak Judgements, and strong Fancies, which perswades us, that 'tis onely the suggestion of their own fears; though we deny not, but God Almighty might permit the Devil to Affright such as are over-curious of Futurities, and take unwarrantable Methods to know 'em—But why upon that Night, and no other? We Answer (if true) 'Tis onely a heightning of the Superstition by observing a fixt time, though all times are the same to the Devil; but 'tis not onely this, but several other Superstitious Wickednesses have been transmitted down to Posterity from the Ancient Inhabitants of this Nation, before the Gospel was Preached, as the Charming of the Tooth-ach, Diseases, &c. and the observati-on of Gathering Fern-seed upon Midsummer-night precisely at 12 a Clock, when some tell us, any body may have a fair Combat with the Devil. We know one, who, with his own Mouth, declar'd himself beaten with Invisible Blows, at that time, and upon that action: Of this nature are Maids Tryals for Sweet-hearts, the nature of Charming, and finding out Thieves by the Turn of the Key and Bible: but these and all other such Examples are the effects of False Faith, Irreligion, and Ignorance; fit Qualifications for the Devil to make use of. As to the latter part of the Query about going to Church, we Answer, It has been one part or the Devil's Policy, to make pretences to holiness, and holy places, on purpose to carry on his Designs the better; though, in Instance, it looks also a little pertinent that it should be there, since the Church and Church-yard are the Dormitories of the Dead.

Quest. 4. In the Month of November 1690. one Martha Grinsfield, aged 22 years, being then Servant to one Mr. Davis a Merchant in this Town of Wisbitch was apparently in perfect Health, on a sudden she was taken with an Apoplexy which continued 24 hours, after that ceased she was taken with a Palsey, which continued three days, and then left her; upon which she was immediately taken with a perfect Dumbness, which continued for a long time. After this a Physician named Salvator Winter came to this Town and perfectly Cured her of her Dumbness within the space of nine Weeks, and caused her to speak again, so well as any person whatsoever, and she still continueth so, neither Apoplexy or Palsey ever returning, but now perfectly well to the amazement of our whole Town. Query, If she might be possess'd with any Evil Spirit, (as many have been of that Opinion) or what might be the cause?

Ans. We see no reason at all for a Possession, 'tis suppos'd that the Doctor used Natural Means to recover her, and the Devil is never dispossest by Natural Means.

Quest. 5. Being in Town about two Months ago I sent you two or three Questions concerning the Soul, being encourag'd to it by your publick declaration that you would answer all Questions, &c. — But since you have been pleas'd to take no notice of 'em, I beg I may know whether ever I may expect any thing from you to solve those Queries; I confess I should have been apt to believe my Letter never came to your hand, had I not had a pretty good assurance that it was deliver'd at Smith's Coffee-house, according to your direction. If therefore you'll be pleas'd to tell me in your next when I may expect your solution, you'll oblige me to have a very great esteem for your Truth to your publick promise, as well as for your Learning and Ingenuity.

Ans. Those Questions about the Soul are already answered: See Vol. N. Q.

Quest. 6. What Rule can there be given to measure Reason by? I ask this, in regard we oftentimes meet with much confidence in Arguments, both on the one side and the other, each party contending his Reason is best: But if there were a Rule by which to measure or try their Reason's strength and goodness by, it would cut off the dispute. If it be answer'd that Reason is a Rule to it self, how comes it to pass that these Rules are so discrepant and various that seldom they agree, but in Argument and Controversie each party contradicts the goodness of t'others Reasoning, concluding his Rule's straight but the other's crooked.

Ans. Reason it self is the Rule of Arguments, not of it self, for that's Impossible. The Question shou'd have been what is the Rule of what appears reasonable, then our Answer had been a Demonstration of Just Consequen es drawn from true Premises. There are many plausible Arguments (we confess) that seem to carry a great force of Reason in 'em which when Examind are found to be but Noise, or else Equivocation; yet the truth and falsity of some things is so plainly discern'd that there's no need of help from

the Schools; but in some things Truth and Error lye too deep to be fetch'd up without a great deal of Learning and Reason too; to contract a long Argument into a little room (tho' not Syllogistically) is the readiest way to find out whether it carries its demonstration along with it.

Quest. 7. I have heard of an attempt made to move a Ship by Artificial Wind, viz. by fixing a proportionable pair of Bellows at the Stern; which Experiment 'tis said was once tryed on one of the Boats in the Thames with success; I desire your Thoughts of its probability.

Ans. 'Twoud be of great use to the publick if to be perform'd.

Quest. 8. I have seen an antient Picture painted above an hundred years upon a Board, and I have lately seen a Copy of the same. It sets forth a Lady sitting upon the Grass, and an old Gentleman lying in her Lap, and at a distance three Men of different Ages walking down from a Castle on a Hill, all in Genteel Habits according to the Fashion of that Age; underneath the Picture was written these Verses.

Madam, I pray you unto me show
Who yond' three be if them you know,
That come from the Castle in that Degree,
What is their Lineage and Affinity.

To which She Answers.

Sir, the first by my Fathers side is my Brother,
The second is so on the part of my Mother,
The third is my own Son lawfully begat,
And all Sons of my Husband lying in my Lap,
Without hurt to Lineage in any degree,
Tell me in reason how can this be?

Ans. The Resolution of this is of no use to the Improvement of Knowledge, and a Man is neither better or worse for knowing or not knowing it, and besides if we wou'd give our selves the liberty of thinking, 'tis discernable at first sight that it may be resolved many ways, and therefore no Stranger can be positive what is really intended by it, what looks most probable to us is this. Her Husband by whom she had the last Child, might be once her Father in Law, by Marrying her Mother in Law, and both this Father in Law and Mother in Law might have either of them a Son by Prior Marriages, which is distant enough, and answers the Question: It might be answer'd other ways, but 'tis not worth our Labour to study about it.

Qu. 9. A piece of Liver of about half a pound fell into a Tub of Water containing an hundred Gallons, lay there some time, about five days, and afterwards did swim, the Reason.

Ans. From a Corruptive Fermentation of it self, whereby it suffers a Turgescence and Inflation, and becoming Airy and Spumous mounts up, this is the cause why dead Bodies swim after eight, nine or ten days, and not from a breaking of the Gall as some have vainly surmis'd.