

**ALEXANDER
ROBERTS**



**A TREATISE
OF WITCHCRAFT**

Alexander Roberts

A Treatise of Witchcraft

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Wherein sundry Propositions are laid

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**downe, plainely discovering the
wickednesse of that
damnable Art, with diuerse other
speciall points**

**annexed, not impertinent to the same, such as
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With a true Narration of the Witch-

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**crafts which *Mary Smith*, wife of *Henry
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did practise: Of her contract vocally
made between the**

**Deuill and her, in solemne termes, by whose
meanes she hurt
sundry persons whom she enuied: Which is
confirmed**

**by her owne confession, and also from the publique
Records
of the Examination of diuerse vpon their oathes: And**

lastly, of her death and execution, for the same;
which was on the twelfth day of Ianua-
rie last past.

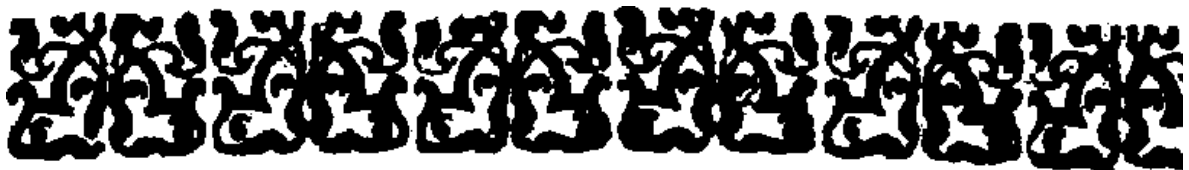
By Alexander Roberts B.D. and Preacher of Gods
Word at *Kings-Linne* in *Norffolke*.

Exod. 22.18.
Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to liue.

Impium est a nos illis esse Remissos, quos cœlestis Pietas,
Non Patitur impunitos: Alarus Rex apud Cassiodorum.

LONDON,

Printed by N. O. for Samvel Man, and are to be sold at
his
Shop in Pauls Church-yard at the signe of the Ball.
1 6 16.



¶ **To the right Worshipful Mai-
ster Iohn Atkin Maior, the Re-**

**corder and Aldermen, and to the Common
Counsaile, Burgesses and Inhabitants of**

*Kings Linne in Norffolke,
Grace and Peace.*

Right Worshipfull:



IN these last dayes, and perillous times, among the rest of those dreadfull euills, which are fore-told should abounda in them, a close & disguised contempt of religion may be iustly accounted as chiefe, which causeth and bringeth vpon men all disastrous effects, when although it be shadowed with a beautifull Maske of holines, faire tongued: yet false-harted,b *professing they know God, but in works deny him.* And among these there be two especiall sorts; the one, who entertaining a stubborne, and curious rash boldnes, striue by the iudgemēt of reason, to search ouer-deeply into the knowledge of those things which are farre aboue the reach of any humane capacitie. And so making shipwracke in this deep and vnfoundable Sea, ouerwhelme themselues in the gulfe thereof. The other kind is more sottish, dull, and of a slow wit, and therefore ouer-credulous, beleeuing euerie thing, especially when they be carried by the violent tempest of their

desires, and other vngouerned affections; and among these the diuell vsually spreadeth his netts, as assured of a prey, wayting closely if hee can espie any, who either grow discontented and desperate, through want and pouerty, or be exasperated with a wrathfull and vnruly passion of reuenge, or transported by vnsatiabie loue to obtaine some thing they desire; and these hee taking aduantage, assaulteth with golden and glorious promises, to performe vnto them the wishes of their owne hearts; the drift whereof is (hee being as at the first incased in a subtile Serpents skinne) onely to enthrall and invassall them slaues to himselfe. The first of these mentioned, are slie and masked Atheists, who ouershadow their secret impiety, loose and dissolute behaiour with some outward conformitie and shew of religion, snatching (as they thinke) a sufficient warrantize thereof from those disorders they obserue among men, and therefore passe vncensured, hauing a ciuill, but dissembled carriage. The second be Sorcerers, Wisards, Witches, and the rest of that ranke and kindred: no small multitude swarming now in the world, yet supposed of many, rather worthy pittie then punishment, as deluded by fantasies, and mis-led, not effecting those harmes wherewith they bee charged, or themselues acknowledge. But considering they be ioyned and linked together with Satan in a league (the common and professed enemy of mankinde) and by his helpe performe many subtile mischieuous actions, and hurtfull designes, it is strange that from so great a smoake arising, they neither descrie nor feare some fire. And therefore, in respect of these, I haue at your appointment and request (for whom I am most willing to bestow my best labours and euer shall be) penned this small Treatise, occasioned by the detection of a late witch

among you, whose irreligious care, and vnwearied industry, is not to be defrauded of deserued commendation, and by mature deliberation, and descreete search, found out her irreligious and impious demeanour, and also discovered sundry her vnnaturall and inhumane mischiefes done to others, whereof being conuicted, she was accordingly sentenced, and did vndergoe the penalty iustly appointed, and due by Law vnto malefactors of that kinde. After all which, you kindled with a holy zeale of the aduaancement of Gods glorie, and giuing satisfaction to euery one howsoever affected, intermitted no meanes, vsing therein the labour of your carefull Ministers (willingly offering themselues in this holy seruice) whereby she might be brought (as one conuerted in the last houre) to the sight & acknowledgement of her heinous sins in generall, & particularly of that of witchcraft, confessing the same, & by true repentance, and embracing of the tender mercies of God in Christ Iesus saue her soule (who refuseth no true and vnfained conuert at any time.) And hee graciously blessing these religious endeuors of yours, vouchsafed to second the same with a happy and wished for euent, which (as I hope) shall appeare manifestly in the following Treatise vnto all those who are not fondly, & without cause, too much wedded to their owne conceits: And thus, desiring GOD most humbly to confirme and strengthen you in his truth, which euer you haue loued, and is your due praise, and shall be at the last an honour vnto you: I rest

Your Worships in all Christian duty to be commaunded,

A. Roberts.

a. 2 Timoth. 3. 5.

b. Titus 1.16.



To the Reader.

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CHRISTIAN Reader, I haue vpon occasion penned this short discourse, and that of such a subject wherewith not being well acquainted, am enforced to craue some direction from those, whose names you shall finde remembred in the same: (that I be not vnthankfull vnto those from whom I receiue instruction) and haue in former time, and latter dayes, taken paines in searching out, both the speculatiue, and practique parts of this damnable Art of Witchcraft, a dangerous and seducing inuention of Sathan, who from the Arcenals, and Magisins store-houses of his ancient and mischieuous furniture, hath not spared to affoord all helpe, and the best Engines for the subuerting of soules, pliable to his allurements: and to this end, beside a plaine narration of fact in this case committed and confessed, (least the Treatise should be too bare and naked) I haue added thereunto a few Propositions, agreeing to such a subiect matter, manifesting some speciall poynts not altogether