



CANTERBVRIES AMAZEMENT:

O R

The Ghost of the yong fellow *Thomas Bensted*,
who was Drawne, Hangd, and Quartered by the
meanes of the Bishop of CANTERBURIE;
who appeared to him in the Tower,
since the *Iesuites* Execution.

With a Discourse between the two Heads on *London* Bridge,
the one being *Thomas Bensted*s, the other the late *Iesuites*.



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Canterburies amazement:

O R

The Ghost of the young fellow

Thomas Bensteed, who was drawne,
hang'd, and quartered, by the crueltie

of the Bishop of CANTERBURIE;
who lately appeared to him in the
Tower, since the Jesuites
Execution.

Canterburie.



H IS the time that evertie Creature hath his dull senses wrapt in silent sleep: the hardie labourer that toils all day, and wearies his irksome members with incessant labours this houre has a free dispensation from his paines, and easeth his wearied body with soundest sleep. The covetous and griping Usurer that is not capable of the least intermission, but esteems each minute an age, wherein he doth not employ his working braine, labours with subtille inventions to augment the massie stock of his ill-got and unnecessarie treasure, at this minute enjoys his naturall rest. The craftie Politician, whose restless perceration is continually full of divers imperfect and indigested projects, quats devices, and State projects, this mid-night houre Morpheus hath dandled his ober wearied senses into sound and senselesse sleep, all creatures are hushd into quiet rest: There is no noyse at all stirring in Citie or Countie, not so much as the barking of dogges, or howling of wolbes, yet I am so haunted with idle fancies and imaginarie conceits, that sleep these eight dayes hath beene to mee a meere stranger. One night I see many religious Ministers (whom so; too much sedulitie and diligence in the execution of their ministeriall functions,

functions, and for their obstinacy to innovations, and their industrious care of the soules committed to their charge, I have not onely deprived them of their Benefices, sequestred their estates, and thereby utterly undone them, their poore wives and children, but made them incapable of any Priestly function here in their Native Countrey; and they were thereby enforced to seek their libertyhood in remote and forraigne places, though they were ancient, or by any other way unable to undergoe Travaille, offering the incense of their prayers against me: another night me thinks I see my dire oppressions, presented in a hellish Maske, each act that I have done is laid befoze me in my sleep; among which I finde few good ones; yet why should I be transported with feare, for shadows they have no substance and are caused by dull and melancholy fancies: a faint-hearted souldier that can flay, and thin be touched with remorse of conscience for what he has done: Why should I be afraid to behold the apparitions of those things which I befoze delighted to enact? Avant them idle feare, seek thy abode in others breasts, I will not harbour thee in mine, and yet I must: Bless me my better Genus! what doe I see! the formidable figure of a quartered man: my Resolution now plays the unconstant woman; my whole body is a perpetuall pallsie, my senses never were benumb'd till now, my rationally part of man begin to forsake my drooping soule; Courage, I never found defect of thee till now. Let me have strength enough to speake unto this ayrie substance. What art thou that at this dead houre of the night, assault my quiet chamber? speake what is thy businesse.

Bensted. Why my Lord, is your grace sencelesse? know you not me? I am Drum-Major Bensted, that with my gallant Myrmidons come thus in Armes the second time. Why doe you stand so like a Statue? Doe you trust to the justice of your cause? Why doe not you take your Barge and waite your Grace to White-hall; there's the Sanctuarie you once fled to for aid.

Canter. 'Tis needlesse, I am safer here, and in a stronger house: and for that Bensted thou namest, he is secure enough; I fixt his head on London bidge, there he keeps watch; the Scots cannot come in, but he must deserite them.

Bensted. O my Lord, but Bensted has a fellow watchman that does now supply my place, one of your Graces friends now beares mee company: this is his first night: he's a verie learned grave man: your Grace I am confident knowes him.

Canter. What was his name, and for what offence does he beare thee companie?

Bensted. A Jesuite, my Lord, his name is Ward, Walker, Waller, Slater, or any of them.

Canter. A Jesuite? and so many names? I wonder that I never heard of him. O how negligent were my High Commission Officers, that could not hunt out that piece of Superstition?

Benst. I protest my Lord, your Grace dissembles admirably: as if a Jesuite could not live in peace for your Officers: alas, my Lord, they were better imployed, in seeking out men that repeated Sermons together, and could have better Compositions of them than of Jesuites, they were rather prizbledged than punished.

Canter. But speak if thou be that Bensted, what is thy businesse here? wherefore dost thou thus haunt me in this fearefull shape?

Benst. My Lord, I come to know wherefore I was made such an example, and to dispute the cause, I was so unfortunally put to death?

Canter. Because thou wast found guiltie of Treason, and therefore according to the Lawes of England, ought to bee hang'd, drawne, and quartered.

Benst. Oh my Lord, the Lawes of England never made Riots Treason: and I had no hand my Lord, in breaking open the White Lion prison: the greatest matter I did my Lord was, I attempted to break open your fortified Gates with a Boom stick, which was a thing altogether impossible; which had I done my Lord, it had beene at the worst but Fellonie or Burglarie, and not Treason, but I was poore, and one fit to suffer; I had no gratuities to bestow on your Grace, I had no Buts of Sack for your Cellar, nor Beaver hat, perfumed Globes, or plush Cloak for your Gentlemen: If I had as good store of Preces my Lord, to have presented Petitions to your Grace withall, I might then perchance have had them subscribed with a We referre this Petition, with a private note in the Margent; but wanting these, I ought to dye, though for no other crime.

Canter. Why simple fellow, dost thou know what belongeth to the English Lawes better than those grave Judges who sate on the Bench at thy tryall, that thou makest these bold distinctions? and dost thou challenge them of injustice? they had a hand in the businesse as well as my self.

Benst. I dare not fare the Judges, let those that have sued in forma pauperis do that; for it may be your politick Lordship informed them more than what was truth, or it may be they took your Grace rather for a Hope than a subiect, and so it became Treason; but if otherwise, let them be assured my cause will have a revenge: And for your selfe, who all the Kingdome knowes is guiltie of this, and many more greater Offences,
rest

rest confident that my recompence will not bee verie easie.

Cant. But good Mr. Bensteeds Ghost, let me know the cause, why you accompanied with your fellow Rebels, sought my life moze than any mans else? I am utterly ignozant of any crime whereof I was gull-
tle to incense any man against me.

Benst. So you are ignozant of sowing disoord betw^{een} the Scots and us: How many truely affected sabiects lost their lives, moze p^{re}ctious than your stone in that skirmish: and how many should have lost their lives, had your p^{ro}fects taken their full effect: Nozeober I believe you are ignozant, that when a Parliament was begun, and ebery p^{oo}ze man that had beene unfaully wrong'd, might without the giving of gratulties have had hys injuries righted, who was the chiese cause of its dissoluti-
on: all this you are pleased to forget, but assure your selfe it will bee re-
membred. You have forgot too I believe bestowing Benefices on non
Residents, that would p^{re}ach once a moneth, and keep Curats who
would read long service, tickle them up with Homilies, and alwayes
conclude within the time, and never p^{re}ach in the afternoone, but spend
that time in mirth and good fellowship amongst their neighbours, in the
Ale-house, or at Bowles, according to your book which tollerated Sun-
dayes Pastimes. Noz you doe not remember, that you would have had
the Kingdome governed by the Civill Law onely: then your High Com-
mission would have beene high enough indeed, so high as it is low now.
You have forgot also the th^{re}atnings you bestowed upon the Judges that
opposed the Ship money. You have forgot too the sounding of the new
Canons, and the ex Officio Dath &c. You have forgot that you endea-
voured to pull downe the French Church, which was erected for the
French Protestants that fled hither for succour: had they been Papi^{sts},
their Church might have stood long enough without your contradiction.

Cant. O gentle soule, I believe thou knowest all my faults, which
are farre moze than those thou hast put me in mind of: Let me intreat thee
therefoze, to leave me, that I may repaire to my devotion, and crabe
pardon from heaben for these and all the rest of my misdoings, and study
to give the wronged world what satisfaction possible I may: Wack not
my wounded conscience with the remembrance of my horrid acts; if any
pittie harbour within thee (Wronged Spirit) let me be its object: I
crabe for pittie that befoze had none.

Benst. O my little good Lord, had you been composed of mercy and
iustice, you would have mingled one with the other, and not let iustice
take place, becomming so febere and cruell to p^{ro}secute the Law against
me, as to send for the Judges, and to compell them by menacing words at
your house, to make it treason, when neither Act nor P^{re}sident could bee
found

found for the like; you might have censured me to have lost my eares, or have branded me in the forehead and cheeks, and so have banished me: but to take my life, and thus to mangle me, and let my blood be spilt upon the thirsty ground, which was as thirsty as your obdurate heart: but look which way you please, goe which way you can, I am still in your sight, here an arme and a leg West ward, there an arme and a leg East ward; this is inhumanity, and especially from you, and one of your Coat and function: the Law it selfe hath provided mercy for some delinquents, and you to have no compassion, which should plead for mercie! But it is noted, you never spared any, but prosecuted them to the height of your malice as you have done me poore man.

Canr. I confesse, it was my onely act, & by my instigation; but I would thou hadst been executed in any other place, than at that which is my way to my Countrey Pallace at Croydon.

Benst. But why was I quartered, and thus in peeces made set up at each gate, for birds and other ravenous soules to be made a prey unto, and to endure now a pluck, and then a tug from the hungrie Crows as they flie



ober me, to make me still crie out, O cruell Canterburie, remember I was a Christian, and so dyed a penitent Christian. Was my fact so haynous that nothing could pacifie your rage, that when my life was expired, my tozue and slaughtered carkasse must be hung between heaben and earth, as not woorthy of either: I spilt no blood in the muttine, (as I have said) but I have read that Church-men, and women, are still most bloody minded, as the Martyrs are monuments of the crueltie of bloody Bonner, & malicious Gardner; and now you cruell Laud and spightfull Wren, to each of you, and those Judges of the Law which iudged me, I have given my quarters for a memorzall.

Cant. Enough, all is true thou hast said concerning them; but for thy particular, I was informed that thou wert a Merchant of London, and sent with divers others by your Masters, to pull downe my Pallace, because I confesse, I was ever an enemy to the Citizens and Citty for divers reasons, and therefore did command this iustice to be done, for others to take example by.

Benst. Alas, I was a young man, and but nineteen yeares of age, and not of ripe years, but as full of saze w for your crueltie; for had you suffered my body to have been buried, I might have been forgotten in a short space, but to set my dismembred ioynts upon the gates of this stately Citty for every one to gaze on, labourd not of that Christianitie which you seem'd to profess, unlesse it were of that superstitious Religion, that practises onely blood, and builds them Altars with the bones of Martyrs.

Cant. I speake no more, thou hast penetrated my proud heart, and mollified my seared conscience: what would I not give to redeeme thy life, if it were possible?

Benst. Your wishes come to late, but let me thus advise you, procure by some meanes, that my parched limbs may be taken downe, that those friends, kindred, and countrie men, nay my poore father, and mother, may not forsake their concourse to London about their livelihood, and trade; for sometimes I am forgotten by them, when other matters of greater consequence is in their heads: but when they come neare Londonbridge, then is their griefe renewed with anxietye of mind, ready to strike them dead when they see my head, as if I were set up on purpose to crosse and perplex them, or to examine their private businesses, or wherefore they come, this is a double suffering; nay my Lord, be not much affrighted, nor doe not shiver too much: let not your Gentlemen which lie here at your beds feet in a Trundle bed bee disturbed by your passion: but let me now admonish and tell you, that you must labour and study with all your might, as ever you did to raise your selfe to be a Bishop, to repent for your sins, and not onely so, but labour to give satisfaction for the wrong you have done to severall men: I could give you a catalogue of those mens names which you have highly injured: but I will forbear, because I know you cannot forget them, especially having so good a memorie, & now no State affaires to trouble your Grace withall: and so farewell,

referring you not to an High Commissioner, but to your owne selfe, which if you doe really perforce, you shall upon your submission be silent as a dead Duck, or an innocent Lamb. Cant. Wretche leaue me.

Benst. Well, Ile leaue thee, and yet still be with thee, for assure thy selfe, that when thou dost appeare befoze the Parliament, I will be also there, and be a torment, not a comfort, to thy afflicted conscience: with the eyes of thy imaginattion thou shalt behold my seuer'd limbs, and then

Conceive what trembling in thy joynts shall dwell,
Blood is the reward of blood: Farewell.

A Discourſe between the two Heads on London Bridge; the one
being Benſteeds, the other the late Ieſuite.

Benſteed. **W**H art thou, that dares come up without my consent, and stand thus cheek by iole with me?

Ieſuite. my name is Slater, Ward, Waller, and Walker, a Ieſuite I was by my profession, and have taken Orders in that Societie these 35. yeares and upwards, for which I was condemned, and am now come to be thy fellows watch-man, to overlook all.

Benst. And why so many names dost thou beare?

Ieſuite. The better to conceale my selfe, and all my plots and intentions.

Benst. Thou hast now as many quarters as befoze thou hadst names: but what plots haest thou in thy head, when it was on thy shoulders?

Ieſ. I may now reveale them which are past, because I can invent no more: and the rather because I had a pardon from the Pope befoze I was executed: We had many agents about the late plot which was intended against the Citie of London, and the Tower, & those no mean ones: for had our plots tooke effect, I had been advanced to a more eminent place with my head on my shoulders, than now I am without it, had I been wise, and not too confident of my selfe and my disguise, I might have fled and bin as safe as the rest of the Conspirators.

Benst. I perceiue your fact was more hainous than mine, and therfoze may iustly claime place here better than I.

Ieſuite. Not better

Dr. Benſteed, for you are the ancientest stander of the two, and therfoze may claime prebeminence.

Benst. Your conspiracie was against the state of our whole Kingdom, to ruine that: mine was onely against a particular man, the Bishop of Canterburie, a Subject: yours of a higher consequence, and for which you suffer iustly.

Ieſuite. That's true; but had he that power still as he had when thou wert condemned, I should not have thus suffered.

But I am wearie with my late iourney, and have got a stuffing in my head, so that I am now ill at ease to relate the rest of my plots at this time; which I will so beare till our next nights conference.

