A strange
and terrible Wunder wrought
very late in the parish Church
of Bongay, a town of no great distance from the citie of Norwich, namely the fourth of this August, in the yeere of our Lord 1577, in a great tempest of violent raine, lightening, and thunder, the like whereof hath been seldom seene.
With the appearance of an horrible shaped thing, sensibly perceived of the people then and there assembled.
Drawen into plain method according to the written copye.
by Abraham Fleming.

The Preface to the Reader
Among men it is grown in custome, to haue forwarn[n]gs of afterclaps, as beacons built vpon hilles, which then are set on fier when daunger is imminent and at hand: Alarum belles serving to the same purpose, and other inuention[s] of men proceed[n]g & provided of policie, to preuent or else to prepare agaynst that which is perilouse. Ev[ery] man canne arme himself, when ha[za]rd is at hand to saue him and his as he is able: for the pre-
seruing of temporall thinges, Iesus how painefull and venturous wee bee: and no sooner shall a premonition bee giuen, but wee are furnished I warrant you proofe.

God warneth us by signs from heaven, by fierie apparances in the aire moste terrible, by wonders, wrought on earthe, Strauge & unusiall, by exinundations of waters beyond their appointed limits, by the remov- ing of senselesse trees from the naturall place where they were planted, by the great power which the Prince of darknesse through Gods permission and sufferaunce hath recovered by many late moste misserable murthers not be named, much lesse to be committed among Christians, by insurrections full of daunger and detestable treason on this side the seas, by tumults and uprores between Princes of forreigne nations, and what should I say more? by the trump of his sweet and heavenly Gospell, sounded unto us out of the mouths of his messen- gers. But wee will not be war- ned, wee will tumble still upon the bedde of wantonesse, and drink ourselves drunck with the wine of sensualitie, that while wee lye wallowing in the sinck of our Sodomitical sinne wee may bee consumed with a Sodomitical or a Babylonicall destruction

God open the eyes of our har- tes, that wee may see in what Wildernesse, among what wilde Beastes and devouring Serpentes wee doo wander: and give us mindes mollified and made soft, that at his woorkes we may feare and bee astonish- ed

The occasion that I have wrote this warning (which I would to God I had the grace to follow) was a wonder lately wrought in Norfolke, and So lately wrought, that the ter-
rour of the same is this inst-
stant freshe in memorie. A
spectacle no doubt of Gods
judgement, which as the fire of
our iniquities hath kindled, so
by none other means then by
the teares of repentance it may
bee quenched. The order of
the thing as I received the same
I have committed to paper, for
the present viewe and perusing
of those that are disposed. It
is grounded uppon trueth, and
therefore not only worthie the
writing and publishing but
also the hearing and
considering

The reporte of a Straunge
and wonderful Spectacle

Sunday being the four-
uth of this August in
the year of our Lord 1577.
to the amasing and sin-
gular astonishment of
the present beholders
and absent hearers at a certain towne
called Bongay, not past tenne miles
distant from the citie of Norwich,
there fell from heaven an exceeding
great and terrible tempest sodein
violent between nine of the clock in the
morning and tenne of the day aforesaid
this tempest toke beginning with a
rain, which fel with a wonderful force
and with no lesse violence then abun-
dance, which made the storme so much
the more extreme and terrible
This tempest was not simply of raine
but also of lightening and thunder the
flashing of the one whereof was so rare
and vehement and the roaring noise
of the other so forceable and violent
that it made not onely people per-
plexed in minde and at their wits end
but ministered such straunge and unac-
customed cause of fear to be conceived
that dumb creatures with the horror of
that which fortuned, were exceedingly
disquieted and senselesse things void of
all life and feeling shook and trembled
There were assembled at the same
season, to hear divine service and com-
mon prayer, according to order, in the
parish Church of the said towne of Bon-
gay, the people thereabouts inhabiting, who were witnesses of the straunge-ness the rarenesse and sodenesse of the storm, consisting of raine violently falling, fearful dashes of lightening, and ter-rible cracks of thunder, which came with such unwonted force and power, that to the perceiving of the people, at the time and in the place above named assembled, the Church did as it were quake and stagger, which struck into the harts of those that were present such a sore and sodain feare that they were in a manner robbed of their right wits

Immediately heerpo[n] there appeared in a moste horrible similitude and like-nesse to the congregation then there present a dog as they might discerne it, of a black colour: at the sight whereof, together with the fearful flashes of fire which then were seene moved such admiration in the minds of the assemb-blie that they thought doomes day was already come.

This black dog, or the divel in such a likenesse (God hee knoweth al who wor-keth all) runing all along the bo-dy of the Church with great swiftnesse, and incredible haste, among the people, in a visible fourm and shape, passed be-tween two persons, as they were knee-ling uppon their knees, and occupied in prayer as it seemed, wrung the necks of them bothe at one instant clene back-wards in somuch that even at a moment where they kneeled they straungely dyed.

This is a wonderful example of Gods wrath, no dout to terifie us, that we might feare him for his justice, or pul-ing back our footsteps from the pathes of sinne, to love him for his mercy

To our matter again. There was at the same time another wonder wrought: for the same black dog, stil continuing and remaining in one and the self same shape, passing by an other man of the congregation in the Church, gave him such a griepe on the back, that therewith all he was presently drawen togither and shrunk up, as it were a peece of lether scorched in a hot fire: or as the mo-uth of a purse or bag, drawen togither with a string. The man, albeit hee was in so straungeo a taking, dyed not, but as it is thought is yet alive: whiche
thing is mervelous in the eyes of men, and offereth muche matter of amasing the mind

Morover, and beside, the Clark of the said Church beeing occupied in cleansing the gutter of the Church with a violent clap of thunder was smitten down, and beside his fall had no further harme: unto whom beeing all amased this straunge shape, whereof we have before spoken, appeared, howbeit he escaped without daunger: which might paradventure seem to sound a-gainst trueth, and to be a thing incredi-ble: but, let us leave thus or thus to judge, and cry out with the Prophet O Domine! O Lord, how won-derful art thou in thy works!

At the time that these things in this or-der happened, the Rector, or Curate of the Church, being partaker of the peo-ples perplexitie, seeing what was seen, and done, comforted the people, and ex-horted them to prayer, whole counsell in such extreme distresse they folowed, and prayed to God as they were assem-led togither

Now for the verifying of this report (which to some wil seem absurd, although the sensiblenesse of the thing it self con-firmeth it to be a trueth) as testimonies and witnesses of the force which rested in this strange shaped thing there are remaining in the stones of the Church and likewise in the Church dore which are mervelously rented and tone, the marks as it were of his clawes or talans. Be-side that all the wires, the wheeles, and other things belonging to the Clock, were wrung in sunder and broken in peces.

And (which I should have tolde you in the begining of this report, if I had regarded the observing of order) at the time that this tempest lasted, and while these stormes endured, the whole church was so darkened Yea with such a palpa-ble darknesse, that one persone could not perceive another, neither yet might dis-cern any light at all, though it were les-er then the least, but onely when the great flashing of fire and lightening appeared.

These things are not lightly with vio-lence to be over passed, but precisely and throughly to be considered

On the selfsame day, in like maner, into the parish church of anothe town
called Blibery not above seven miles distant from Bongay above said, the like thing entred, in the same shape and similitude, where placing him self upon a maine balke or beam, whereon sometime the Rood did stand, sodainely he gave a swinge downe through the Church, and there also, as before, slew two men and a lad, and burned the hand of another person that was there among the rest of the company, of who divers were blasted.

This mischief thus wrought he flew with wonderful force to not little feare of the assembly, out of the church in a hideous and hellish likenes.

These things are reported to be true yea by the mouthes of them that were eye witnesses of the same, and therefore dare with so much the more boldnesse verifie what soever is reported

Let us pray unto GOD, as it is the dutie of Christians, to work all things to the best; to turne our flintie harts into fleshie hartes, that we may feele the fire of Gods mercy, and flee from the scourge of his justice

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A necessary Prayer

O GOD which hast promised to be a shield to such as flee to thee for succoure in their necessities, & with thy wings to ouer shadow thee that they feele not the scorching heat of afflictions & miseries: we beseech thee, that although we, through the infinite and vnmeasurable sinnes which we commit, provoke thee to smite vs with the Iron rod of thy wrath and judgement: yet that it would please thee to re-member that we are but fraile flesh, subject to sinne, and to too prone to offend: that it would please thee to cast thy gratious countenance vpon vs, that beeing restoredinto thy fauoure, from which
our offe[n]ces haue separated vs. we may shrowd our safe-garde against all man[n]er of anoyances whatsoeuer through Christ Iesus our onely savior & redeemer, in whose name, as hee hath taught vs, we say and pray. *Ab omni malo libera nos Domine:* Deliuer vs from all euil, good Lord. Amen. *Tibi laus honor & gloria in aeuum.* Amen.

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