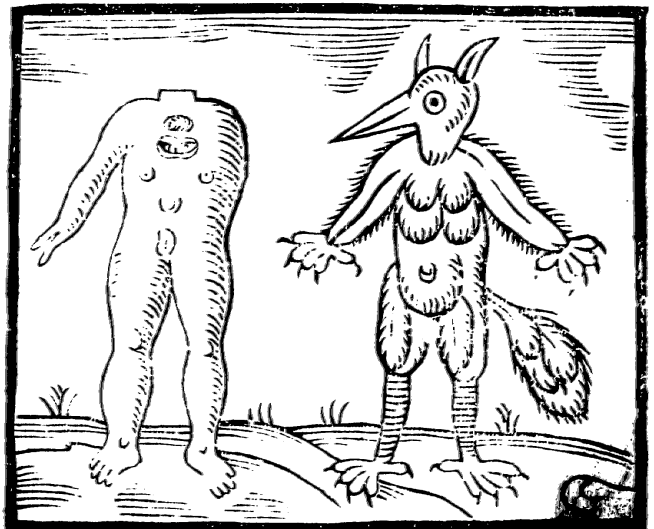


Gods Handy-vvorke in VVONDERS.

Miraculously shewen upon two Women, lately deliuered of two
Monsters : with a most strange and terrible Earth-quake, by
which, Fields and other grounds, were quite
remoued to other places :

The prodigious births, being at a place called Perre-farme, within a
quarter of a mile of Feuetham in Kent, the 25. of Iuly
last, being S. Iames his day. 1615.



London, Printed for I. W. 1615.



TO THE READER.



Gentle Reader, here is a liuely description of the mercifulnesse of our God, wherein thou mayest behold his Fatherly affection, shewed vnto vs Christians, in that he forewarneth vs to flie from the wrath to come, as it appeareth by this picture here before thine eyes; the matter declareth vnto thee, the most horrible and strangest birth of a child, that euer was heard or scene to bee borne of any Christian woman in our dayes: which wonderfull strange newes, God the Almighty doth send, to declare vnto vs his wrath, and heauy displeasure to be at hand, except wee speedily repent, and be heartily sorrie for our former wicked life. But let our hope bee fully reposed in the comfortable, and most sweet promises of the holy Ghost, who pronounceth by the mouth of his seruants the Prophets and Apostles, these words to our comfort, At what time soeuer a sinner repenteth from the bottome of his heart, I will put all his wickednesse out of my remembrance, sayth the Lord.

Let not these fearefull and terrible examples terrifie or feare thee, gentle Reader; for all these things, as it is written *Mal. 2.4.* must needs come to passe, but the end is not yet: For Nation shall rise against Nation, and Realme against Realme, and there shall bee Famines, Pestilences, Thunders, and Earth-quakes in all places, before the terrible day of the Lord do come, in which day all things, as it is written, *1. Thef. 5.* That he shall come as a Theefe in the night: yet of his meere mercy doth hee vse these terrible sights as a messenger, and fore-teller of his wrath to come:

To the Reader.

For as Saint *Paul* saith, When they shal say, Peace and safetie, then sodaine destruction commeth vpon them, as sorrow vpon a woman with childe, and they shall not escape in any wise. Therefore let vs not sleepe in security, as others doe, but let vs watch and be sober, for the day of the Lord is at hand, lest sodainly his wrath will come, and in the time of vengeance, he shall destroy vs: From the which, God the Father, for his Sonne Christis sake, deliuer vs.

AMEN.



GODS WONDERS in Women.



If God had from the beginning of the world made all creatures beautiful, and in their perfect shape, his glory had not bin so great: but as white sets off blacke, so these contrary colours in the creation of man, sometimes sayre, sometimes deformed, expresse the skill, power, and omnipotency of the great Master, in whose hand it lyes to make a Legger, or a King, a beautiful body, or a monstrous, and to fashion thee or me as ugly, as that wretched shape (whatsoeuer it be, at which with wonder and loathing thou so often castest an eye, haply of scoyne.

Neither are prodigious Birthes (so) that is the wombe, which now is in labour, simple or meere mistakings in God as if like a bungler in some common trade, he were not his Crafts-master: no, hee receiueth no lesse honour from the shape of a Monster, than from the rarest piece of beautie, that euer was out of earth; no, we are all but one piece of clay, and as the Potter pleases, so are the vessels made, some to base uses, and others to noble: neither is the vessel to repine and aske the workman: Why didst thou make me to no better purpose?

Monstrous births are Spoiles in nature, they are Wens sticking on her cheek to disgrace her: they are to man and woman mockeries of their pride: so) why should either of them with Diues boast of their purple and rich cloathing, when an arme from heauen can strike them, in a moment, into the leprosie of Lazarus? What face and forehead which thou

Gods wonders in a Woman.

thou painted for allurements, and so adorned it with jewels, to shew the glory of thy riches, is moulded out of the same flesh and blood, of which a begger is framed, and which giueth fashion to a stigmatick, and mishapen creature.

To checke therfore our vicious condition, who are proud of that which must rot, and consume with wormes bred out of our owne corruption: and to punish the finnes of some particular parents, God from time to time striketh the womb of the mother, and doubleth his curse, not onely in making her to bring forth with paine and dolour, but to be deliuered with fearefull and horrid shapes, to astonish the beholders, and affright the sinfull byrorders.

What man (vnlesse the hammers of hell continually beat vpon his heart to harden it) being a father to a son or daughter so blasted in the natiuity, but would at sight of such a horror fall downe and die with sorow: or curse himselfe that euer his finnes were so blacke and monstrous, as to moue the Almighty in his wrath to make his body, to be the begetter of an ugly Monster? Say such a childe should liue to call him father, how vnpleasing were the sound? The very name of, This is my sonne, should presently strike him cold to the heart, with, This is my shame: or rather, This is my sinne: For be assured, that albeit women with childe, may by blowes, or other misfortunes miscarry in their deliery, and bring Infants into the world waymed in limbes, or deformed in countenance, and this cannot chuse but be an vnspcakable grieffe to the afflicted father and mother: yet when Gods owne fingers shall crush the loynes in the wombe, and set his markes of fearefull diuine vengeance, on the brest of an vnborne Babe, to turne it into a Monster, it is without all question, a reuenge and punishment for some extraordinary finnes in the Parents. God neuer giues a sound payment but it is for a sure fault: when an Infant is borne dumbe, deafe, or in a limbe mishapen, he doth but shake the Rodde; but when the birth is prodigious and beyond Nature, the stripes are deep, for then he is angred indeede, and at euery such blame hee striketh blood. For mer ages heretofore haue had plentifull dem

onstrations:

Gods wonders in a Woman.

onstrations: and these latter dayes of ours are too pregnant in the like examples.

But omitting either of these, I beseech you Christian Readers, to cast your astonished eyes vpon this late begotten Object of horror and misery, lately sent into the World, in Kent, in a place not far from Feversham. For at a Farme called Perre, standing a quarter of a mile from the Towne before named, a poore wayfaring woman being great with Child, but not neere her time, seeing the night approaching, slept into an old Barne, there to take by her lodging. Where it pleased God: for the punishment of hers and her husbands finnes: before her expected holwer, to strike her with paynes, so that there she fell in labour: And after many terrible throlwes of terrore and agonies, more then women commonly suffer in such extremities, she was after many toitures, and toiments of Soule and body, deliuered of two Children: Twinnes they were, not of gladnes, but of shame and sorow: not of brotherly embracements, but of affrights and wonder. A brother and sister they were, and yet I know not whether I may so learne them: but if I could giue these names vnto them, yet neuer were Brother and Sister so vnlike to one another, or to those that did beget them. For the one was a woman perfectly framed in all her limbes, sauing that the body was pynd away, and by that meanes, mcagre and leane. But the second unfortunate burden that came along with her, was neither a Brother nor a Sister, but Both: for it was an Hermaphrodite, it was neither man nor woman, but such as you might call both man and woman: yet inclining rather to the forme of woman than man, handsomely composed from the Navill downewards, but a Monster vppwards, and below the knax: for one leg was greater than the other: and either foote had no more then foure toes. Head it had none, nor necke, but in the brest stucke out a bunched peere of deformed flesh, which like a flap, beeing to be lifted vp, it carried vnderneath, the fashion of a mouth with a tongue, and choppes, yet were they neither. About this deformed mouth, grew forth a tuft of hayre, the brest

of

Gods wonders in Women.

of a tesson, and more, and a full inch in breadth: out of the right side, came a thing like an arme, altogether formlesse and without bones, of the true shape of a hand, having two fingers onely, towards either side one. It had no pappes, but prints and markes like them in their places. The length of this disproportioned creature was 13 inches, and in compass 15 inches and a halfe. This was more fat and fleshy than the former.

The father of these infortunate payre of Twines, named himselfe Henrie Haydnor: the Mothers name was Marth. t. And being examined of their dwelling, they reported it had bene in Chelmsford in Essex. These prodigious Births were sent into the world on the 25. of July now last (being Saint James his day) and were buried at Preston a towne neere Feversham: to behold whome, so long as their bodies rested above earth, thousands of people came from all places, the misery of the sad mother, being relieved by much money, which out of Christian compassion, many bestowed upon her. GOD graunt that these and such like other fearefull demonstrations of Gods anger for our sinnes, may call vs home to his fold, from whence worse than monsters and wild beastes we wander, to the everlasting slaughter of our Soules, from which the Lord of heaven deliuer vs. Amen.

Another strange wonder at *Arnhem*, a towne in *Gelderland* the 23. of *Januarie*. 1615.

This ugly and fearefull Monster was bozne the viii. of *Januarie*, in the yeare of our Saviour Iesus Christ, a Thousand Sixe Hundred and Fiftene, an ensample to vs of the great wrath of GOD, because of our manifold and great sinnes, which now a dayes in euery place doth beare sway, as Cursing, Swearing, Blaspheming of GOD, Whoredome, Drunkenesse, and the like, the which is truly to bee lamented. And euery man may let this fearefull Monster or token of God, be vnto him a looking glasse, whereby to amend his life, and repent: for
this

Gods wonder in a Woman.

this birth was very wonderfull, and some of many credible persons that doe witness hereunto, and hath been openly declared, and published throughout the whole Towne of *Arnhem*, and chanced as hereafter followeth.

A Citizens wife in the sayd Towne, a comely woman (whose name for certaine causes I let passe) being great with Child, and looked euery day, her Husband, being one that had chaunced spent al his goods amongst whores and thauers, did not leaue the same, but without any regard of his Wife, or her time so neere, followed his naughtie accustomed vse. For he was rather amongst other naughtie company, then in his house, or by his wife, which did not a little grieve his wife, who often rebuked him, both with good and bad wordes: all would not helpe, it made him to be more earnest agsunst her, and to vse her so much the worse, the which grieved her very sore. She being now great with Child, (as aforesayd,) by on a tunc her husband accompanied himselfe againe with his companions and whores, yea in an open house, hee both drunke, damned and leapt, both night and day, and thus vfed all manner of filthy concupiscence with them.

This came to his wifes eare, whereupon she hauing intelligence thereof, was in a great chafe, ranne thither in a furie, told him his owne, and rebuked him for it, and sayd: he should some thing regard her great belly, and tarry at home, and leaue the companie of those wicked women, for shee had but small goodwille at his hands, and hath scarce to eat or drinke at home. Her Husband little regarding her wordes, was in a raging anger, and would haue beate his wife: the company which were in the sayd house, would not suffer him, and sayd, he should bethinke himselfe better, be more wiser, and not deale in such sorte with his Wife, seeing shee was great with Child, and looked euery day to be brought a bedde. Her husband in his great anger, and unabashedly made answer: she may beate the Deuill of hell. His wife on the other side being sore vexed, answered thereto, I would I might beare a Deuill, so should I once be rid of this woe & miserie, wherewithall thou dost so be me, for thou wilt by no means
leau

Gods wonders in Women.

leave thy whoring, but be alwaies in their companie, both drincken and halfe madde, the which I woofull woman must both heare and see.

Thus in her anger she returned home againe, and shortly after the time came: as soon as the neighbours and Wifes wife were come, shee began to cry out very great paines to cry out fearefully, and not long after was brought a bed of this wonderful Monster, with so fearefull proportioned limmes: the which as soone as the woman was deliuered thereof, it came underneath the bedde. The proportion of his body and limms was as hereafter followeth, and was seene of many persons, both men and women, which witnesse the same openly.

First, this Child being a Monster, was ouer his whole body very rough with hayre, and all blacke, except his belly which was like a Swanne.

Secondly, the two feete vpon the which it did stand, were like to a Peacocks feete.

Thirdly, his eyes were to behold, fearefull, so: they shined like fire, and were very great.

Fourthly, he had a mouth like vnto a Storks or Crane, altogether blacke and very fearefull to behold.

Fifthly, it had a taile like vnto an Oxe.

Sixtly, it had two hornes vpon his head, which hung ouer him.

Seuenthly, it had in steade of hands and fingers, claws like vnto a foule.

In summe it was not found in any point like to a Christ an body: but was very fearefull and horrible to behold.

After that it had now (with great trembling and feare) been seene of many men in the towne, and euery man astonie therat, in the end they smothered it betwixt two beds and so killed it.

My brother in Christ, and reader hereof, let not this which is here declared, seeme a fable vnto thee, so: this and the like wonders, many haue been heard of heere and there, as Monsters by Sea, signes in the Ayre, both of men and cattell.

By this we do perceiue and marke, that the Lords coming

Gods wonders in Women.

ming is at hand, and that shortly hereupon will followe the iudgement day, whereas we must not onely giue account of our sinnes, but also of all vaine works, words, and deedes. For now a dayes the common sort of people are wholly bent to wicked companie, whereas is cursing, swearing, eating, drinking, breaking of Wedlocke, and whoredome, like as was with this foresayd man of Arnhem: god people amend your sinfull liues, and call to God for grace.

Also this may be a looking glasse vnto euery wedded woman, whereby to refraine casting out of such vniuersed words, like as did this foresayd wife, her time of deliuey being so neere, but rather to haue patience, by pacifying her wrath, and commit all matters to almighty God, that hee may amend all that, which in her husband is amisse, also to pray for him, that it wil please God so to turne his heart, that he may acknowledge his sinnes, and so amend his sinfull life. The almightie God, wonderfull in his creations, grant vs all his grace, that wee may amend our wicked liues, confesse his power, and haue euermourning life in Iesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

