

STRANGE NEVVES

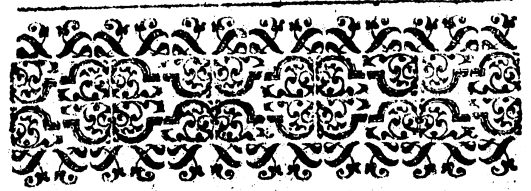
out of *Kent*, of a Monstrous and mishapen
Child, borne in *Olde Sandwich*, vpon the 10. of *Julie*
last, the like (for strangenes) hath ne-
uer beene scene.



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THE NEWES
OF
KENT
AND
SANDWICH



STRANGE
NEWES OUT OF
KENT.

OF
A Monstrous and mis-
shapen Childe, borne in *Olde Sandwiche*,
vpon the 30. of *Iulie last*, 1609, the
like (for strangenes) hath neuer bene
seene, knowne, nor heard of.

Ods wonders, (deare Coun-
treymen of England) daylie
shewed amongst vs, as well
Celestiall as earthly, way, if
any grace be within vs, pro-
cure a continuall feare and
trembling, and the abortiue and prodigious
byrths from tyme to tyme, which many of vs
haue bene eye witnesses of, may sufficiently
summon vs from slaine, and speedily awaken
vs from our dreames of securitie, wherein
wee lye carelesly sleeping.

A iii God

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God we see is highly offended with vs, in that hee thus changeth the secret workings of nature, as he lately shewed, in the strange birth of a monstrous childe brought into the world, at Sandwich in Kent, the strange shape and unnaturall proportion thereof, not onely raised much feare, fright, and wonder, to the inhabitants of that Countrey there dwelling, which behelde it, but also the reports (now most trulie) certified, by men of credite and substantiall reputation, may giue sufficient cause of terror and amazement to all people, the whole Kingdome ouer, and being rightly considered of by iudiciall censurers, and men of vnderstanding, it may without all doubt, put each degree and estate in mind, & consideration of the heauy wrath of our angrie God, not onely by this his iudgement here expressed, but diuers other waies threatned against vs, for our sinnes & transgressions, therefore good Countrymen, and you whose Christianlike mindes will relent at the relation hereof: good Countrymen, I say, let mee intreat you, that both your eyes, and eares, may bee gentle witnesses to the truth of this strange wonder in nature, and that your hearts and mindes may be bent to a repentant vnderstanding, for the discourse here following, is both strange, true, fearefull,

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full, and full of much wonder, and because there shall be (no doubt) made of the verities thereof, I haue here placed belowe the names of such personages of credite, now dwelling in London, that were eye-witnesses thereof, and personably saw the same, to their great hearts grieffe and sorrow, which I hope, will be sufficient to approoue the truth.

¶ The names of such Witnesses that saw this Monstrous Child, now dwelling in London.

1. *M. Bills*, at the signe of the Shippe in Thames streete.
2. *M. Dickson*, a Cooper, in Thames streete, neere to Saint Dunstons church.
3. *M. Smith*, a vidualer, in long-Southwark.
4. *Richard Rawson*, Waterman, dwelling in East-Smithfield.
5. *Aks Smith*, dwelling in Bishops-gate-streete.
6. *Amie Ratcliff*, of Shore-ditch, with diuers others, whose inward griefes there taken, is yet scarcely worne away, and cannot well (for the strangenesse thereof,) be forgotten, and this is the onely truth.

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It is not vnknown to most part of the kingdome, that Sandwich is one of the principall townes in Kent, bordering vpon the Sea, rich, and populous, and well stozed with substantiall and welthy inhabitants, nere vnto which towne now standeth a very olde house, (being the dwelling place of one Goodwife Wattes, whose husband is a shepheard) which house is the onely remnant of an other towne, which time hath ruinated & woyn away, nowe called by the name of old Sandwich, in which house, being some quarter of a mile from Sandwich, wherein as I said before, dwelleth one Goodwife Wattes, a very honest poore old womā, welbeloued of the country, and of an honest conuersation amongst her neighbours, one that takes great paines for her living, and most willing to keepe her credit byright.

Upon the thirty of July last past, 1609, being latterday, there came vnto this old poore womans house, a certaine wandring yong woman, as it seemd great with child, handsome, and decently appavelled, and being not well able to trauell further, by reason of her great belly, euen ready to be deliuered, desired succour of this kind-hearted old woman Mother Wattes, and that she would graunt her some helpe and comfort in this her extremitie,

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tremitie, and with weeping teares running downe her cheeks, requested for Gods sake, that some Christian-like charitie might be shewed her, a houseroome for that night ofozded her for womanhood sake, other wise her selfe, and the babe within her body were like to perish. This request of hers seemed so reasonable, and the regard of her bigge belly, drew such pittie and womanly nature from this good old woman Mother Wattes, that she not onely granted her houseroome and lodging for that night, but also sucke, helpe and furtherance, (if it so should happen) at the painefull hower of her deliuerie: to be short, this bigge belly wandring yong woman hauing thus by her humble increacies obtained lodging, wheret the very first night of her lying there, fel into a most strange labor, where her wombe was tormented with such grieuous paine, that it much affrighted the old woman Mother Wattes, and in her minde strook such a fear, that she immediatly called in her neighbours, being women all of a willing forwardnes in such a busines: but through the inward laboring of the womans bodie, not any of them all knew how to shift in such a dangerous case, wherfore amazedly they looked one of another, til such time as one goodwife Hatch, the yoger, was sent for,

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being a Midwife of a milde nature, and of good experience, who at her comming thither, so cunningly shewed her skill, that with the helping hand of God, this distressed yong woman was speedily deliuered, for which diligent paines she gaue her vii. shillings, but her wombe peeld forth into the world a kind of creature, but no childe rightly shapt, for it was most strange & dreadful to behold, and droue the Midwife goodwife Hatch and the rest of the company into a great fright, euen readie all to sinke downe dead to the ground with feare, whether it were for the sinnes of the Parents, or that God would haue his Justice, in the estranging of nature for our sinnes here shewen, let the wisser sort imagine: but surely this vnknowne woman peelded from her wombe such an abboztine and prodigious fruit, that this ages memorie cannot call to mind the like: for it had no head, nor any signe or proportion thereof, there onely appeared as it were two faces, the one visibly to be seene, directly placed in the breast, where it had a nose, and a mouth, and two holes for two eyes, but no eyes, all which demed vgly, and most horrible to be seene, and much offencive to humane nature to be lookt vpon, the other face was not perfectly to be seene, but retained a proportion of

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of flesh in a great round lump, like vnto a face quite disfigured, and this was all of that which could be discerned. The face, mouth, eyes, nose, and breast, being thus framed together like a deformed peece of flesh, resembled no proportion of nature, but seemed as it were a caos of confusion, a mixture of things without any discription, from the breast downeward to the bowels it was smooth and straight, all the other parts of the body retained a most strange deformitie, for the armes grew out at the toppe of the shoulders, hauing neither ioynt nor elbow, but round and fleshy, at the end of which armes, grew two hands, with fifteene fingers, the one hand had eight, the other seauen, of a contrarie shape, not like to the naturall fingers of new borne children: also it had foureteene toes, of each foote seauen, being as it were like vnto geese or ducks feet. The waist and middle as I said before, was straight and without ioynts, but the lower parts were all in a lump of flesh, like vnto a lambs paunch, or such like loathsome thing to be seene, and withall the legges so short, that they seemed to haue no proportion. This miracle in nature, or rather Gods wonder, thus brought into the worlde, quite disfigured from humane creation, as by the picture is rightly
B ii Deciphered,

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Deciphered, brought such an amazement in the beholders hearts, that for a time, they were stricken almost senselesse: the Roome also where this child lay, smelt so earthly (for it was dead borne) that not anie of them all could hardly endure the sent thereof.



Among

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Among other remembrances, this is to be obserued for a thing of strangenesse, that the woman her self confessed, that this monster, a little time before her deliuey, moued in her belly, not like vnto other naturall children, but as shee had bene possessed with an euill spirit, which put her to extreame torments.

Not many hours passed, before the reports of this strange birth was bruted abroad, and the eares of the inhabitants there-about dwelling, so filled with the newes thereof, that they came in multitudes to behold it, in such aboundance that it was wonderfull.

But now againe to our purpose. On Sunday being the last of Iulie, this new deliuered woman, in reason seeming to bee weake and sicklie, lying in her bed, desired the olde woman her hostis, Mother Watts (within whose house shee lay) to goe into the towne, & to buy such necessaries as was needefull for a weake woman in child-bed to haue, giuing her money for the same purpose, the which mother Watts most willingly did: But now marke what in tht meane time hapned, & let all women in such a case consider what might be done, & how strongly nature in this newe deliuered woman prevailed, for before Mother Watts could returne from Sandwich,

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which was in lesse time then two houres, she had got vp out of her bed, put on all her clothes, and was gone from the house, leauing behinde her eight shillings, lying vpon the Table, the child being dead, layde by it, with an intent that the money should pay for the burial of the same, all which at mother wats her returne, being found in this order, seemed to bee an accident most strange, wherevpon she immediatly called in her neighbors, where (making knowne vnto them all these aforesaid proceedings) with a generall consent, they certified the same vnto the Magistrates, who vpon good consideration, together, with the aduice of a reuerend and learned Minister, of Saint Clements church in Sandwich, one M. Simons, who verie charitably gaue it burvall, & withall, giuing many godly admonitions to the people, concerning this most strage birth: from such like terrible examples of Gods wrath, sweet Iesus bee mercifull vnto vs, for such like dumb warnings of our owne ouerthrowes as this is, if wee be not graceles, may lead vs out of the pathway of perdition, & guide vs aright into the true way of happines.

Some other things concerning this wonder is to be considered of, the one is, that there was one of the Sergiants names of Sand-

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Sandwich, that by the sight, and corrupted smell proceeding from the child, receiued such a conceit, that to this day she is not scarce well, but sickly, and much decayed in health: likewise, in the time of this womans continuing in Mother wates house, it could not be knowne by any meanes what she was, from whence she came, nor whither she was going, nor as yet it is not knowne for a truth to what place she is trauelled, but for a certaintie she was proued to be a wanderer, & supposed to be ones daughter in the Ile of Cennet, but of what life and conuersation she hath bene, and is of, none can iustly say as yet, but surely the birth of her wombe hath bredde much cause of feare.

God in his other creatures, shewes the like examples, onely to put vs in mind of repentance, both by birds, beasts, foules, and fishes, as there hath bene diuers straunge birds, and foules sent into the world with the likenes of great ruffes about their necks some with periwigs, chaines, and such like.

The Sea in like manner peeldes forth her monsters in sundrie likenesses and deformed shapes. London had lately a feareful patterne of the same, by a huge deformed fish, that would groane and roare contrary to his kind, which by many people was scene

at

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at the Swanne within Newgate.

There be many I know that remembers the late growing tree neere Burndwood in Essex, & sinking of y^e ground in Suffex, with a number such other like wonders wrought by the hand of God for our amendments, yet carelesly we still run astray, regarding nothing at all these larum-bels sent from our gentle redeemer.

And if we doe consider thereof aright, we are to make our prayers to God daily, that in mercie he would looke vpon vs, and not in this manner make a desozmitie of nature, examples of his heauie indignation, thz eatned against vs: from such anū all other the like, God in his sweet mercie deliuer vs all:
Amen.

FINIS.

