

A True and Faithfull  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE SEVERAL  
INFORMATIONS  
EXHIBITED

To the Honourable Committee appointed by the  
PARLIAMENT,

To Inquire into the late Dreadful Burning of the  
City of London

Together with other INFORMATIONS touching the Insolency of POPISH  
PRIESTS and JESUITES, and the Increase of Popery; brought to the  
Honourable Committee appointed by the Parliament for that purpose.

Printed in the Year 1667.

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LONDONS *Consumption by Fire.*

Upon the second of *September* 1666. the Fire began in London at one  
*Farriners* House, a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, between the hours of one and two  
in the Morning, and continued burning until the sixth of *September* following;  
consuming, as by Surveyors appears in Print, three hundred seventy three  
Acres within the Walls of the City of *London*, and sixty three Acres three  
Roods yet standing within the Walls unburnt. Eighty nine Parish Churches,  
besides Chappels burnt. Eleven Parishes within the Walls yet standing.  
Houses burnt, thirteen thousand two hundred.

Per {*Jonas Moore*} Surveyors  
*Ralph Gatrix*

Upon the eighteenth of *September* 1666 the Parliament came together: And  
upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of the same month, the House of Commons appointed a

Committee to enquire into the causes of the late Fire, before whom the following informations were given in; and proved before the Committee; as by their Report will more clearly appear, bearing date the two and twentieth of *January* 1666 and upon the eight of *February* following, the Parliament was prorogued, before they came to give their Judgement thereupon.

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Die Martis 25 Septembris 1666. 18. Car. 2.

Resolved, &c.

That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire, and that it be referred to

<i>Sir Charles Harbord</i>	<i>Mr Robert Milward</i>	<i>Sir Robert Atkins</i>
<i>Mr Sandys</i>	<i>Sir William Lowther</i>	<i>Sir Thomas Gower</i>
<i>Col. Birch</i>	<i>Sir Richard Vatley</i>	<i>Mr. Trevor</i>
<i>Sir Robert Brook</i>	<i>Sir Rowland Beckley</i>	<i>Sir Thomas Clifford</i>
<i>Sir Thomas Littleton</i>	<i>Sir Thomas Allen</i>	<i>Sir Henr Caesar</i>
<i>Mr. Prin</i>	<i>Mr. Whorwood</i>	<i>Sir John Monsen</i>
<i>Mr. Jones</i>	<i>Mr. Coventry</i>	<i>Sir John Charlton</i>
<i>Sir Solom. Swale</i>	<i>Serj. Maynard</i>	<i>Lord Ancram</i>
<i>Sir Thomas Tomlin</i>	<i>Sir. Jo Talhot</i>	<i>Mr. Pepis</i>
<i>Mr. Seymour</i>	<i>Mr. Morley</i>	<i>Sir Richard Everard</i>
<i>Mr. Finch</i>	<i>Mr. Garraway</i>	<i>Mr. Creuch</i>
<i>Lord Herbert</i>	<i>Sir Fran. Goodrick</i>	<i>Mr. Merrel</i>
<i>Sir John Heath</i>	<i>Col Strangwayes</i>	<i>Sir Will. Hickman</i>
<i>Mr. Milward</i>	<i>Sir Edward Massey</i>	<i>Sir Richard Brown</i>
<i>Sir Richard Ford</i>	<i>Sir Edm. Walpool</i>	<i>Mr. Maynard</i>

And they are to meet to morrow at two of the Clock in the afternoon, in the Speakers Chambers; and to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

*Will. Goldsbrough, Cler. Dom.*

Com.

October 9. 1666.

Ordered, That these Members following be added to the Committee appointed to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire, *Viz.* Sir *John Pelham*, Mr. *Hugh Buscower*, Mr. *Giles Hungerford*, Sir *William Lewis*, Sir *Gilbert Gerrard*, Sir *John Brampstone*, Mr. *Milward*, Mr. *Buscower*; and all the Members that serve for the City of *London*.

*Will. Goldsbrough*, Cler. Dom.

Com.

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October 16. 1666.

Ordered, That Mr. *Davies*, Sir *Thomas Higgons*, Mr. *St. John*, Sir *Richard Frankling*, Sir *Thomas Tomkins*, Mr. *Devereux*, Mr. *Millard*, Mr. *Lewis*, Mr. *Dowdswell*, Sir *James Thyn*, Sir *Edm. Pierse*, Mr. *Coleman*, Sir *Tho Allen*, Mr. *Giles Hungerford*, Mr. *Churchill*, be added to the Committee appointed to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire.

*Will. Goldsbrough*, Cler. Dom.

Com.

The Honourable Committee, according to the fore mentioned Orders of the House, did meet in the Speakers Chamber, and having chosen Sir *Robert Brook* for their Chairman, proceeded to receive many considerable Informations from divers credible Persons about the matter where with they were intrusted, and thereupon did at last agree that Sir *Robert Brook* should make the ensuing Report to the Honourable House of Commons.

*The Report of Sir Robert Brooks, Chair-man to the Committee that was appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into the Firing of the City of London; made the Two and Twentieth of January, 1666.*

IN a Letter from *Alanson* of the 23 of *August* 1666. *New Stile* written from one *Dural* to a Gentleman lodging in the House of one of the Ministers of the

*French Church in London, called Monsieur Herault, there were these expressions.*

'Pray acquaint me with the truth of certain News which is common in this Country, That a *Fire from Heaven* is fallen upon a City called *Belke*, scituated on the side of the River of *Thames*, where a world of People have been killed and burnt, and Houses also consumed: which seemed a word of *Cabal*, cast out by some that were knowing, and others that might be ignorant of the signification of it.'

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Mrs. *Elizabeth Styles* informs, That in *April* last, in an eager discourse she had with a French servant of Sir *Vere Fan*, he hastily replied, *You English Maids will like the Frenchmen better when there is not a House between Temple-Bar and London Bridge*. To which she answered, I hope your eyes will never see that. He replied, *This will come to pass between June and October*.

*William Tisdale* informs, That he being about the beginning of *July* at the *Greyhound* in *St. Martins*, with one *Fitz Harris* an Irish Papist heard him say, *There would be a sad Desolation in September, in November a worse, in December all would be united into one*. Whereupon he asked him, where this Desolation would be? He answered, *In London*.

Mr. *Light of Ratcliff*, having some discourse with Mr. *Longhorn* of the Middle-Temple, Barrister, (reputed a zealous Papist) about *February 15* last, after some discourse in disputation about Religion, he took him by the hand, and said to him, *You expect great things in Sixty Six, and think that Rome will be destroyed, but what if it be London?*

Mr *Kitely* of *Barkin* in *Essex*, informs, That one Mrs. *Yazly*, a Papist, of *Ilford* in the said County came unto his House, *August* the *13<sup>th</sup>*, and being in discourse with his Mother, said, *They say the next Thursday will be the hottest day that ever was in England*. She replied, I hope the hottest season of the year is now past. To which she answered, *I know not whether it be the hottest for*

*Weather or for Action.* This Mrs Yazly coming to the same House the Week after the Fire, Mr. Kitely said to her with some trouble, I have often thought of your *Hot Thursday*. To which she replied, *It was indeed upon the Thursday, but it happened upon the Sunday was sennight after.* Mrs. Yazly hearing his Evidence produced against her, endeavour to avoid the words, saying, That upon the 13<sup>th</sup> of August she did tell Mrs. Kitely *That they say the next Thursday will be the darkest Thursday that ever was in England, but not otherwise;* which she affirms to have received from one *Finchman*, an old Woman of *Ilford*; who being examined by Justice of a Peace so discover the truth thereof, denied that ever she said any such words to Mrs. Yazly, or that she had discoursed with her about any such matter. And as to the subsequent words, she saith Mrs. Yazly denies ever to have spoken them: But Mr. Kitely offered in her presence (if it should be demanded) to bring his Mother and Wife to testifie the same.

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*William Ducket* Esq, a Member of the House, informes, That one *Henry Baker* of *Chippenham* in the County of *Wilts*, coming from Market with one *John Woodman* of *Kelloway* in the same Country, the Thursday before the Fire began in *London*, they had some discourse about the buying of a yoke of fat Bullocks, wherein they differed, because *Woodman* who was to sell them was desired to keep them a while in his hands; But the said *Woodman* denyed so to do, for that as he alleadged, he could not stay in the Country till that time which *Baker* would have them delivered to him in, and being asked whether he was going, he refused to tell, Asking what he had to do to make that question, But riding a little farther, the said *Woodman* exprest these words, *You are brave blades at Chippenham, you made Bonfires lately for beating the Dutch; but since you delight in Bonfires, ye shall have your Bellies full of them ere it be long:* Adding, *that if he lived one week longer, he should see London as sad a London as ever it was since the world began. And in some short time after, he should see as bloody a time as ever was, since England was England.* This discourse was not much taken notice at that time it was spoken, But when the City of *London* was Burnt, the said *Henry Baker* gave

this Information to the said Mr. *Ducket*. And whereupon he issued out his Warrant to apprehend *Woodman*, but he was gone out of the Country, and cannot be heard of since.

*Robert Hubert* of *Roan* in *Normandy*, who acknowledged that he was one of those that fired the House of Mr. *Farryner* a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, from whence the Fire had its beginning, confessed that he came out of *France* with one *Stephen Piedloe* about four months before the Fire, and went into *Sweden* with him, where he also staid with him as his Companion four four months, and then they came together into *England* in a *Swedish* Ship called the *Skipper*, where he staid on board with the said *Piedloe* till that *Saturday* night, in which the Fire brake out. When *Peidloe* taking him out of the Ship, carried him into *Pudding-Lane*, and he being earnest to know whither he would carry him? He would not satisfie him till he had brought him to the place and then he told him that he had brought three Balls, and gave him one of them to throw into the House. And he would have been further satisfied in the design, as he said, before he would execute it: But *Pediloe* was so

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impatient that he would not hear him, and then he did the Fact which was, That he put a Fire-Ball at the end of a long Pole, and lighting it with a piece of Match, he put it in at a Window and staid till he saw the House in a flame. He confessed that there were *Three and Twenty Complices*, whereof *Peidloe* was the *Chief*.

Mr. *Graves* a *French Merchant* living in *St. Mary Axe*, informed this Committee, that he had known *Hubert* ever since he was four years old, and hath ever observed him to be a person of a mischievous inclination, and therefore fit for any villainous enterprise; And because of his knowledge he had of him, he went to visit him in prison, where when he saw him, he could not by commiserate the condition whereinto he had brought himself. And for his better discovery of the *Fact*, he told him the said *Hubert* that he did not believe he had done that of which he confessed himself guilty. To which

Hubert replied, *Yes, Sir I am guilty of it, and have been brought to it by the instigation of Monsiur Peidloe, but not out of any malice to the English Nation, but from a desire of Reward which he promised me upon my Return to France.*

It is observable, that this miserable creature who confessed himself to the Committee to be a *Protestant*, was a *Papist*, and died so. And as for the aforesaid *Peidloe*, the said Mr. *Graves* informed, that he had had a full knowledge of him, and knew him to be a very Deboist person, and apt to any Wicked Design. Moreover, for a clear conviction of the Guilt of the aforesaid *Hubert*, Mr. *Lowman*, the Keeper of the *White-Lion* Prison, was appointed to set him upon a horse, and go with him, and see if he could find out the place where he threw the *Fire-Ball*. Upon which, *Hubert* with more readiness than they that were well acquainted with the place, went to *Pudding lane*, unto the very place where the house that was first fired stood, saying, *Here stood the house*. The Jaylor endeavoured to draw him from that belief, and put him upon seeking for some other place: But he positively persisted in what he had first said; and affirmed that to have been the said House. It being intimated to the Committee, That notwithstanding the Confession of the said *Hubert*, it as confidently reported the *Fire* in the aforementioned *Farryners* house began by accident. The Committee therefore sent for him the said *Farryner* before them, who being examined, said That it was impossible any Fire should happen in his House by accident, for he had after Twelve of the clock that night gone through every

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Room thereof, and found no Fire, but in one Chimney, where the Room was paved with Bricks, which Fire he diligently raked up in Embers. He was then asked whether no Window or Door might let in wind to disturb those Coals? He affirmed there was no possibility for any wind to disturb them: and that it was absolutely set on fire of purpose.

*Dawes Weymansel* Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, informed, That he saw a man apprehended in the time of the Fire near the Temple, with his Pockets stuf with *combustible matter*, made of Flax, Tow, and such like materials.

Doctor *John Packer* informs, That he saw a Person in the time of the Fire, throw some *combustible matter* into a Shop in the Old Bayley, which he thinks was the Shop of an Apothecary; and that immediately thereupon he saw a great smoak, & smelt a *smell of Brimstone*. The person that did this, immediately run away; but upon the out-cry of the people he was taken by the Guards.

Mr. *Randal*, Mr. *Hastem*, and Mr. *Humphrey Bowyer*, do all agree, That they saw a person flinging something into a House near St. *Antholines* Church; and that thereupon the House was on fire, and the smoak thereof infested the adjacent Houses. And when this was done there was *No fire near the place*.

Mr. *Michael March*, an Officer in the Trained Bands in a Company of Sir *Richard Browns* apprehended a *Walloon* in the time of the Fire, at the Nags Head in *Leaden-hall-Street*, with an Instrument like a dark Lanthorn, made (as is conceived) to lay a Train of Powder, and it was filled with Gun-powder. There were two more of the same Nation in his company. They being asked to what use they employed the same Instrument, would give no Account thereof.

*Newton Killingworth* Esq. informed, That he apprehended a person during the fire about whom he found much *combustible matter*, and certain *black things of a long figure*, which he could not indure to hold in his hand by reason of their extream heat. This Person was so surprised at first, that, he would not answer to any question; But being on his way to *White-Hall*, he acted the part of Mad-man and so continued while he was with him.

Sir *John Maynard*, a Member of this House, affirms, That he had some of that combustible matter in his hands, and thought it were in its natural substance and unfired, yet the heat of it was scarcely to be endured by the touch.

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Mr. *Freeman* of *Southwark* Brewer; (whose House was lately fired) informs, That on the day his House was fired (about a quarter of an hour before that happened) a Paper with a Ball of Wild fire, containing near a pound weight wrapped in it, was found in the *Nave of a Wheel*, in a *Wheelers* yard, where lay a great quantity of timber. How his House was fired, he knoweth not; but this he affirmed to the Committee, that it could not be by accident, because there had not been any Candle or fire in the House where the Hay lay; that whole day; and that the Hay being laid in very dry and before *Midsommer*, could not possibly be set on fire within itself. Moreover he said, that the Hay-loft was on fire on the top of the House and that the fire spread from the one end of the Roof to another in an instant.

Mr. *Richard Harwood* informs, that being near the *Feathers Tavern* by *St. Pauls*, upon the fourth of *September* he saw something through a grate in a Cellar, like Wild-fire, by the sparkling and spitting of it he could judge it to be no other; whereupon he gave notice of it, to some Souldiers that were near the place, who caused it to be quenched.

I had order from the Committe to acquaint you that we traced several Persons apprehended upon strong suspition (during the fire) to the Guards, but could not make further discovery of them.

Thus far was the Report: what follows was given into the Committee, but not by them Reported to the House at that time.

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IN obedience to an Order directed to me, from the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons, then sitting in the speakers Chamber, of the second of *October*, 1666 I did carry *Robert Hubert* to St. Katherines tower by Water, to let me know the place where the Swedish Ship lay, that brought him and other Frenchmen from Stockholm, and he brought me to the Dock over against Mr. Corsellis his Brew-house, and did then verifie to me, and Mr. Corsellis, that the Ship lay there, until such time as he with Mr. Peidloe and others did go and set fire to a House. And this Hubert did then further say, that Mr. Pediloe did fix two Fire-balls to a long Pole and put them into a Window; and that he the said Robert Hubert did fire one in the same manner, and put it in at the same Window. But withal the inquiry and diligence that I could use, I could neither find nor hear of any such Vessel. And from thence I carried the said *Robert Hubert* to *Tower-Hill*,

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and did then desire him to shew me the house that they did fire and he said, that it was near the bridge. So we went along *Thames Street* towards the bridge; but before we came to the bridge the said *Robert Hubert* said, that the house was up there (pointing with his hand up *Pudding-lane*) So I bid him go to the place, and he went along the bricks and rubbish, and made a stand: then I did ask one *Robert Penny*, a Wine porter, which was the Bakers house and he told me, that was the house where the aforesaid *Robert Hubert* stood. So I went to *Robert Hubert*, and stood by him, and turned my back towards the Bakers house, and demanded of him which House it was that he fired, (directing to other houses contrary to that House) But he turning himself about said, *this was the house* (pointing to the Bakers house) that was first fired. Then by reason of his lameness I set him on a Horse and carried him to several other places, but no other place he would acknowledge but rode back again to the Bakers house, and said again *that was the House* (pointing at the Bakers house) And this I do humbly certifie to this Honourable Committee.

By me *John Lowman*, Keeper of his  
Majesties Country-Gaol for *Surry*.

SIR

Hearing that you are Chair-man to the Committee for examining the Firing of *London*, I thought good to acquaint you with this Information that I have received.

*William Champneys*, a Hatband-maker, now Living upon *Hornsly-down*, was upon Tuesday morning, Septemb. The Fourth, 1666. in Shoe Lane, and there met with a Constable who had apprehended a Frenchman whom he took firing a House there with Fire-Balls and charged the said *Champneys* to assist him, who carried the said Frenchmen to *Salisbury Court*, hoping there to have found a Justice; but finding that place burning down, returned into Fleet Street, who was presently called upon by the Commander of the Life Guard, to know what the matter was: the Constable told him, he had apprehended a Frenchman firing a house in Shoe Lane; he examined the Person and committed him to the Guard and told the Constable he would secure him, and carried him along with him. The Constable asked him whether he should go along with him to give in his evidence. He replied, that he had done enough, and might go home. But what became of the Frenchman, he knoweth not.

*Your humble Servant S.G*

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In a Letter directed from *Ipswich*, for the Honourable *Sir Robert Brook*, it is intimated, That about the 30<sup>th</sup> of *August* 1666. One of the Constables of *orton* in *Harismer* Hundred being about the survey of that Town, about Hearth-money was told by one Mr. *William Thompson* a Roman Catholick in that Town, That though times were like to be sad, yet if he found any cause to *change his Religion*, *he would see he should not want*. And further said to him, What will you say if you should hear that *London is burnt?*

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The Affidavites touching a Frenchman that said There were Three Hundred of them engaged in Firing the City.

*The Informations of Richard Cound of St. Giles in the Fields, Ironmonger; William Cotes, Samuel Page, Francis Cogny, Edmund Dakins and Richard Pardoe taken the eighth day of September 1666 by Sir Justinian Lewen Knight, one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, upon oath, as followeth.*

*Richard Bound saith That upon the Tuesday night last about twelve or one of the clock, there was a Frenchman brought by the watch to this Informants Fathers house, being at the Sign of the White Hart in King-street taken as a suspicious person; The said person being questioned by them, whether he was not one of those that Fired the City, or had any hand therein, or any privity or knowledge of any that had designed the same; or words to that effect: The said person answered a great while in a perverse manner; quite different from the question. But being further pressed, to tell the truth: and being old, that if he were guilty, it would be the only way to save his life; He did at first obstinately deny, that he knew any thing of any Plot Whereupon a Young man took the prisoner aside, to the end of the Room, and after some private discourse between them, they both returned to this Informant and the rest of the Companie, and the said Young man spake openly to us, in the hearing of the Prisoner That the said Frenchman and prisoner had confessed, there were *three hundred Frenchmen that were in a Plot or Conspiracy to Fire the City.* Upon which this Informant and other spake to the said Frenchman in these words, or to the same effect: *Well Monsieur, you have done very well to confess what you have done, and no doubt but you may have your pardon, if you will confess**

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*all you know of the Plot:* And thereupon further asked him, *Are there no more than three hundred persons in thee said Plot?* He answered, *there are no more than three hundred persons.* Then we inquired who they were, and how he came to know they were *three Hundred?* To which he would give no direct answer, but put it off with other extravagant discourse. And being asked why

he came to St *Giles* Parish (where he was apprehended) He told a story, that he came from *Islington Fields*, where his Masters goods were; But the Goods were now removed: but he could not tell whither; and that his Master bid him go up and down the Fields, but would not declare upon what occasion, or for what end he was so to do; and being asked whether there were *three hundred* persons engaged in this design, or plot? He replied that there were *three hundred* engaged in it.

*The Several Informations of William Cotes of Cow-lane of London Painter, of Samuel Page of St. Giles in the Fields Weaver, of Edmund Dakins of St. Giles aforesaid, Book-sellers; of Francis Cockney of St Andrews Holborn; of Richard Pardoe Victualler, taken upon oath, &c. tend to the confirmation of the fore-foregoing Relation.*

*An Extract of a Letter from Hydeburgh in the Palatinate September the 29<sup>th</sup>  
1666.*

SIR

*Yours of the sixth current came on Wednesday to me, and brought the ill tidings of the burning of London, constantly expected and discoursed of amongst the Jesuits to my knowledge for these fifteen years last past, as to Happen in this Year. In which they do also promise to themselves and others Introduction of the publick exercise of the Catholick Religion. This Letter was sent to Mr. Alton, who lives in New Gravel-Lane in Shadwel, who negotiates the business of the Palatinate, and will produce the Original if there be occasion.*

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*The Information of John Chishul, Schoolmaster in Enfield*

Upon *Friday Aug. 31.* Mrs *St. George*, and her eldest daughter *Susanna St. George*, both *Popish Recusants*, came to visit Mrs.

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*Rebecca Eves* Widow, at her house in *Enfield*; where speaking concerning the Session of Parliament drawing nigh, *Mrs. St. George* told her, that some would hereafter be called to account for a Plot. Being asked for what? She told her in her ear, *For burning the City*. *Mrs. Eves* afterwards hearing of the firing of *London*, (and going to a place where she might behold it) met with *Mrs. Susanna St. George*, (and amongst other discourse) told her how much her mothers words, which she spake the *Fryday* before, did run in her thoughts, which she repeated to her Daughter, who made this Reply, that her mother was very apt to talk and that she had been fain to keep her mother within doors during the fire, fearing lest she should talk.

After this (during the Fire) *Mrs. Eves* met with *Mrs. Cook* another popish Recusant, and of the same Family, to whom she also related *Mrs. St. George* her words; who made this return, that she was a worthy woman to keep counsel!

Also the Lady *St. George* at *Enfield*, in the Lord of *Lincolns* house, declared to *Mrs. Rebecca Eves* of the said town, that within a few days the City of *London* would be laid in ashes. this was spoken about two days before the Fire happened.

*Mrs. Eves of Enfield* her Examination before *Mr Jolliss* and *Mr. Marvel*  
Decem. 20. 1666. concerning *Mrs St. George*.

*MRs. Rebecca Eves* of *Enfield*, three or four days, or within a week before the Fire, receiving a Visit in her own house from *Mrs St. George* (amongst other discourse) *Mrs. St. George* askt her what News she heard? and if she knew when the Parliament sate? *Mrs. Eves* replied, she thought shortly. The other asked if she heard of any that were to be called in question before the parliament? *Mrs. Eves* said About what? *Mrs St. George* said, about a Plot. *Mrs. Eves* asked, what plot? *Mrs. St. George* answered, about Firing the City. *Mrs Eves* said, I hope God will preserve the City, but people use not to be

questioned before the Fact be committed. So the discourse was waved for that time.

At the time of the Fire, *Mrs Eves* went out to look towards the Fire, and mentioning *Mrs. St. George*, one in the Company replied behind her (but she cannot certainly fix the person) a prime woman to keep counsel! After the Fire, *Mrs St. George* her daughter came

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to *Mrs Eves*, who asked her if she remembered what her Mother had said? She said, *My Mother is such a Woman, she will speak what she thinks*. Afterwards she said, That she had much ado to keep her Mother in, at the time of the Fire, lest she should speak some things she should be questioned for.

At the first discourse, *Mrs. Eves*, her Daughter, and others of her Family were present, *Mrs. St. George*, his Wife and Family, have since left *Enfield*. They are all great *Papists*, and there are many more in the Neighbourhood.

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*A Letter directed and sent by the Post to Mr. Samuel Thurlton, in Leicestershire, from a person unknown, as followeth, Dated October 1666.*

*My Friend,*

Your presence is now more necessary at *London*, than where you are that you may determin how to dispose of your Estate in *Southwark*; For it is determined by *Humane Counsel (if not frustrated by Divine Power)* that the *Suburbs will shortly be destroyed*. Your capacity is large enough to understand; Proceed as your Genius shall instruct you.

*Cave Cave Puge, Vale.*

Saturday the first of September 1666, the day before the Fire in London, came one *Urmstraw* from Ireland, with a Letter from thence, to one Esq. *Holorof* at East Ham in Essex (being related to that family by marriage) where he supped. After which he asked the Esquire, *if he had heard any thing of the firing of London?* who answered, No, But *Urmstraw* said, he he would shortly, *For it was, or would be so that night:* the esquire answered, If it were, he hoped it might be quenched again, as it had been many a time. But *Urmstraw* answered, No, *it would not be quenched; For it should be said of it as of Troy,* repeating Latin Verse, *Nunc Seges est ubi Troja fuit, that Now corn grows where Troy stood,* This discourse was managed pleasantly by him, after which they went to their beds And in the morning this *Urmstraw* inquires earnestly, whether they had heard of the Firing of London that Night? they answered No: But he prayed him to send one of the family out to inquire, and doubtless they would hear of it; Upon which a Messenger

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was sent who brought in Word from a man that travelled upon the Road, that it was on Fire indeed. After Dinner this *Urmstraw* desired his horse to be saddled, that he might be gon. The Esquire intreats him to stay till next morning : But he answered, *Therefore I would see London before it's quite burned, For I shall never see it more.*

Sunday morning the Fire being begun in *London*, a person coming from *Deptford*, when he came to *Barnaby Street* end in *Southwarke* hears a Woman cry out against a *Frenchman* for throwing *Fireballs*, he runs after him, and lays hold of him. He asked him what Commission he had for so doing? He answered, that *his Comission was in his const.* The people comming in they searched, him, and found *Fire-balls* in his pockets. He was delivered to the Guard in *Southwark*, but heard of no more.

A citizen being fired out of his House, had hired a Lodging in Queen street in Covent Garden and going up Holborn (there being a croud of people : steps in amongst them and hears a woman say, that she had a hand in firing the City.

The People askt her whether she were an Anabaptist? She said No: Are you an Independent? She said No: Are you a Presbyterian? She said No: Are you a Roman Catholike? to which she would give no answer. The Citizen asked her, but Mistriss had you a hand in Burning the City? She answered, what would you have me to say! *I have confessed it already and do deserve to die for it:* this she said with great trembling, and seemed to be much troubled. The Citizen enquired for a Constable the people reply, there was one gone for, But a Gallant comes and takes her by the Arm, and leads her away, saying he would have her examined, and forthwith another Gallant closeth with him, and they both carried her to the *Griffin Tavern in Holborn*. The Citizen follows them, to see the result of the business. But, they, with the Master of the House, shut out the Company (all but the Citizen supporting him to be one of their own Company) but asking one the other concerning him, and finding him not of them put him out again. Whereupon he goes to the next Company of Souldiers, and inquires for their Captain, who replied, he was not there, but told him, Yonder is my Lord Craver, unto whom the Citizen repaired, and acquainted his Lordship; That there was a Woman apprehended (and rescued by a couple of Gallants) that had Confessed she had a hand in burning the City, and was at such a Tavern, Whereupon

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the *Lord Craven* called to a Captain in the street, and ordered him to go with that Man and apprehend the Woman that he should direct him to; Whereupon he goes with the Citizen, and takes her with the First Gallant, who stood up highly in her defence and carries them both to an Alehouse on the other side of the way. The Citizen perceiving that nothing would be done with her, leaves his name with the Captain, and where he might be found, but was never called for to Justifie the words spoken by her.

A woman standing in *White-Chappel* with a company about her, was askt what the matter was? She said, that she met two young men in that place, and asked them how it was with the Fire: They answered, *Its now almost out, if it can be kept so, but the Rogues renew it with their Fire-balls.* As saith

another woman, Young men; if you have a heart to it, you may be hired to throw them. It was askt her, what was become of the woman spake thus? She answered, That she had apprehended her and delivered her to the under Beadle of *White-Chappel-Parish*. The woman falling under the accusation (not being able to deny it) there being many witnesses at that time heard it: She was delivered to *Sir John Robison*, but heard of no more.

One from *France* writes to his correspondent in *London*, to know the truth of what was muttered in *Paris*, Whether *London* were laid in Ashes or no. The Letter being dated a week before the Fire began.

From *Surrey* in or near *Darkin*, a Person in ordinary habit (who was yet observed to take place of all nobility and gentry among the Papists, seeing the People of *Darkin* mourn for the burning of the City, he spake slightly of it, telling them, they should have something else to trouble themselves for; and that shortly *Darkin* should be laid as low as *London*. Whereupon the people made at him, and one *Mr. Howard* a great Papist rescues him, and sends him away in his Coach to *London*. This was deposed before *Sir Adam Brown*, a Justice of Peace and a Member of Parliament.

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These Following Relations (for substance) were delivered to *Sir Robert Brooks* Chairman of the Committee, a little before the prorogation of the Parliament.

A True Relation made by one of the Grand Jury, at *Hicks Hall*, at a general Quarter Sessions, presently after the Fire in *London*, who was upon Tryal of some of those that fired the City.

That near *West-Smithfield* in *Cheeks Lane* there was a man taken in the very act of firing a house, by the Inhabitants and Neighbours; and carrying him

away through *Smithfield*, to have him before a Justice for the act committed, the Kings Life Guard perceiving it, made up unto them, and demanded their Prisoner from them; but they refused to let him go. The Life-Guard men told them, That he was one of the Kings Servants, and said, *We will have him*, and thereupon they drew out their Swords and Pistols, and rescued him out of the peoples hands by force of Arms.

A Bill of Indictment was brought against him, and two or three Witnesses did swear unto it, and the Bill was found by the Grand-Jury, who did carry it to the *Old Baily*, and presented it to the Lord Chief Justice; but it came to no further Tryal, nor was ever seen after at the *Old Baily*, so far as this person upon his best enquiry could ever hear or learn.

*Concerning a House-keeper at So-ho, who fired his own Dwelling-House.*

First he secured all his Goods in his Garden, and then went in and fired his House; which when he had done, he endeavoured to get away out at his Fore-Door. A Neighbour demanded of him who had fired his house? He answered, the Devil. Upon that, his Neighbour bid him stand, or he would run his Halbert into his guts. His answer was, *If you do, there are enough left behind me to do the Work*, whereupon he was secured, and a Bill of Indictment brought against him, and about three Witnesses did swear to it, and his Son came in as a Witness against him, who was demanded by the Foreman, What he could say as to the firing of his Fathers House? he said, that *his Father did Fire it with a Fire-ball*. It was demanded of

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him, Whether he did fire it above staires, or below? He answered above staires. The Bill was likewise found; but the Petty-Jury being too much influenced and over-awed by the L.C.I.K did not find him guilty.

A Maid was taken in the Street with two Fire-balls in her lap: Some d d demanded of her, Where she had them? she said One of the Kings life Guard threw them into her Lap; she was asked why she had not caused him to be apprehended? she said that she knew not what they were. She was indicted for this, and the Bill found against her, and turned over to the *Old-Baly*, but no prosecution upon it.

In the time of the Fire, a Constable took a Frenchman firing a house, seized on him, and going to a Magistrate with him, me his Royal Highness the Duke of *Yorke*, who asked the reason of the tumult: One told him that a Frenchman wat taken firing a house; his Highness called for the man, who spake to him in French: the Duke asked Who would attest it? the Constable said, *I took him in the Act, and I will attest it*: the Duke took him into his custody, and said, *I will secure him*. But he was heard of no more.

On Munday the third of September, there was a Frenchman taken firing a House; and upon searching of him, Fire-balls were found about him. At which time four of the Life-Guard rescued the Frenchman, and took him away from the People, *after their usual manner in the whole time of the Fire*.

One Mr. Belland a Frenchman, living at Maribone, who bought great store of Pastboard for a considerable time before the fire in the City of London, to the quantity of twenty gross in on shop, and much more elsewhere, was asked by a Citizen, What he did with all that Pastboard? He answered, that he made *Fire works for the Kings pleasure*. The Citizen asked him, What doth the King give you? He replied, Nothing, *onely I have Respect at Court*. Tee Citizen said, 'Take heed Mr. *Belland*, you do not expend your estate, and then lose your Respects at Court for you are a great barge. *Belland* answered Sir, do you think this a great matter? I use all this my self; But if you did see all the great quantie I have made elsewhere in three several places three, four, and five miles off, you would say something. Another time, the Stationer with whom he dealt

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for the Pastboard, being at his house in Maribone & wondering at the many thousands of Fire-works that lay piled up of several sorts, he said, Sir, *do you wonder at this? if you should see the quantity that I have made elsewhere by other men, you would Wonder indeed.*

The Sunday before the fire began, this Belland came to the Shop where he was wont to buy his Pastbord, but the Stationer being not there, he desired a Citizen (the Stationers Neighbour) to speak to him, and to let him know that he had much wronged him in disappointing him of the four gross of Pastbord which he should have had of him, and said that he should not do his work by the time; & that if he had it not by *Tuesday* night, it would come too late, he should have no occasion for it after that (which was the *Tuesday* night before the Fire) Mr. *Belland* said the Citizen) what is the reason of your hast? Have you any shew suddenly before the King? At which he blusht, and would give no answer. Says the Citizen *What kind of Fire-worke do you make, only such as will crack and run?* *Belland* answered, *I make of all sorts; some that will burn and make no crack at all, but will fly up in a pure Body of flame, higher than the top of Pauls, and Waver in the Ayre.* Says the Citizen Mr. *Belland*, when you make your shew, shall I see it? Yes said *Belland*, I promise you and gave him his hand upon it. Which Citizen in the time of Fire, being upon the Thames in a boat, saw, to his great amazement, sundry bodies of Fire, burning above the Fire of the Houses *as high again as Pauls, Wavering in the Ayre*, directly according to *Bellands* description.

And after the Burning of the City, the Stationer and the other, Citizen agreed to go to *Maribone*, to speak with this *Belland*; and by the way met with his two Maids and his Boy: And having some knowledge of them, asked for young Mr. *Belland*, who told them, he was not at home, neither knew where he was. But the Citizens observing that they carryed with them Rabbets and Capons ready drest, concluded, they were going to him, and told them so. Whereat, they were surly and bad them go look him, for they would not tell them where he was. Upon that, the Citizens resolved to follow them, and did till thy came to

*Whitehall.* The servants went up staires and down stairs, on purpose to have lost them, but could not, for they kept close to them. And at last, one of the maids went to a door and knocked, Crying out, *They were dogged by two men, that they could not be rid of;* With that young Mr. *Belland* opened the door saying to one of the Citizens, *Sir, your servant, how do you do?*

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One of them answered, Both I and many Thousand Families more are the worse for you; for you under pretence of making fire-works for the King, have destroyed a famous City, and ruined a Noble People. To which *Belland* replies, I make nothing but innocent things that will do no harm; for which I have a Pattennt from the King. *But the Citizen answered,* If the King gave you a Pattennt, it was bus for your self: Who answered, No. Said the Citizen, What made you then to imploy so many men, in so many places? *No;* said *Belland,* I set no man to work neither know I any Man that makes of them, but myself; *though he had often before said otherwise, While they were thus discoursing,* Old *Belland looks from under the Hanging, Sir, said he,* I hear you charge my Son with suspition of Burning the City, I pray you speak lower (casting his eyes about, fearing the Ladies passing by might hear) *and said, my son doth nothing but what he has had a Patent from the King for, and shall have an Order to sue any man that shall accuse him.* And he said, *my son is no prisoner, but Lodged here,* to prevent him from Rage of the Common people. *Well said the Citizens, You must give an account for what you have done.* And so they shut the doore upon them. *The Citizens went and inquired whose Lodgings they were, and were told, they belonged to the Lady Killegrew.*

*The Information of Thomas Middleton Chyrurgion, late inhabitant of St. Brides, London.*

I the said *Thomas Midleton,* do hereby certifie, that upon the Sunday in the afternoone the day wherein the dreadful fire brake out in Pudding Lane which consumed the City hearing the general out-cry, that the City was fired by

*Papists* and French, I repaired to the top of a Church steeple near the Three Cranes in the Vintrey where my self, and several others observed the motion of the fire for two or thre hours together, and we al took notice that the fire did break forth out of several houses, when the houses which were then burning were at a good distance from them every way, and more particularly, I saw the fire break out from the inside of *Lawrence Pountney Steeple* when there was no fire near it. These and such like Observations begat in me a Perswasion, that the fire was maintained by designe. Upon *Munday* I repaired again into the City, and found as the day before, that the fire did break forth in fresh houses at a great distance one from another. And as I was returning

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home, passing through *Watling Street* by a Tobacco Marchants house, I saw the master of the house come down staires, driving a young fellow before him, saying to him, *You Rogue, do you come to Rob me? What did you do in my Garret?* Or words to that purpose, and pushed him out of doors: All which I observed, and he seemed to be a Frenchman: He was a short black fellow of about 22 years of age: and as soon as he was out of the house, he having a loose coat on, in a way of privacy, Shuffles something under his Coat, whereupon I laid hold of him and said, *Sirra, what have you there?* The fellow replied, *What is that to you, the Master of the House knows me:* Upon that I asked the Mr. Of the House whether he knew the fellow, he answered, *he knew him not.* Whereupon I searched the fellow, he found a horne of powder about him, and as soon as the powder was discovered he fell a rubbing his hands, they being all black with powder: He had also about him, a Book in tituled; *The Jewish Government.* I charged him that he was a Frenchman, because he spake broken English; but he denied it, and did much Vaunt himself. There coming a Constable by with his Staffe, I required him to carry him to prison, and would assist him; so we conveied him to *Old-Bridewel;* and by the way, the People were ready to kill him, calling him *French Rascal.* I prayed them to forebeare, for Justice would give him Reward. I told the fellow he would be hanged; he made slight of it, saying, *If I ore my soul shall be saved, but yours shall be damned.* And when he was put into Bridewel, I

desired that he might be secured and none suffered to speak with him, til he were Examined before a Magistrate, because the Tobacco Merchants House was presently Burned upon it. But so it happened on the next day that the fire came on, and consumed my house and goods, so that I was forced with my family to fly into the countrey and what became of the fellow I know not, Old Bridewel being burnt also And understanding that the Parliament hath appointed a Committee to enquire after the Actors in, and Fomenters of the Terrible Fire, I thought good to inform the Honourable Committee thereof, that they may send for the keeper of the said Bridewel, to know what became of the Fellow; that he might receive Justice according to his demerit. Thus much I thought me self obliged to do, as in Duty bound to God and my Countrey. All which I am ready to affirm upon Oath, when I shall be thereunto called.

*Tho. Middleton*

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In the time of the Fire, near *Bridewel*, There was a man sadly bemoaning the great loss he was like to sustain (the fire then being within five or six houses of him) did beseech the People for God sake, they having no goods of their own in danger, to come in and help him to throw out Trunks, Chests; Beds &c. out at a Window, having procured two Carts or waggons to carry them away. Whereupon I ran into his House with several others, broke down his windows, threw out his Goods, and Loaded the Carts, and seeing a Room wherein many Books and loose Papers (which seemed to be a Library) I went in and took down a book, which proved to be Ovids *Metamorphoses*; and while I was looking upon it, there came into the same Room an Old Man of Low Stature with a white Frock, who looked also on the book as it was in my hand, I took him in my mind to be some Groom, come out of a Stable, and thought him to be presumptuously foolish, supposing such a mean-like old man ignorant of that Language in which the book was written, it being Latin; but I spoke not to him: In the mean time there brake forth a fire among the Papers which were behind us there being none in the Room but he and I. Whereupon the rest of the People coming in, Cryed out, we had set the Room on fire, and rushing in

upon us, put out the fire with their feet; whereupon I took hold of the Old Man by the Buttons under the throat, and said, how now Father, it must either be you or I that must fire these Papers. There was a small thing of a Black matter, which looked like a piece of Link, burning, which questionless set fire on the Paper, but it was immediately trod out. A tumult of People thronged in; and when I said, *how now Father* and took hold of him, he said, *Parci mihi Domini*: the People which did not understand it, cryed out he is a Frenchman, kill him, and with pulling of him, his Perriwig fell off; then appeared a bald Skull, and under his frock he had black Cloathes, I think of Bishops Sattin whereupon he seemed to be a grave Ecclesiastick person. I had much a do to save him from the people but at last brought him before the Duke of York; we found in his pocket a bundle of papers closed up with wax like a packet, which was delivered to the Duke of York. I know not what was written in them, neither do I know what Country-man he was; but methoughts he looked something Jesuitical like.

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This I am certain of, that when I went into the Room there was no fire in it, and it was fired when there was none but he and I in it, yet I cannot say I saw him do it; though I cannot but suspect he did it and rather, because there were several houses untouched betwixt this house, and where the fire was coming on, when the Papers in the Library were thus on fire as I have related. What became of this fellow after we had delivered him to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, I have not heard.

*John Stewart.*

*Thus far concerning the Report and information about the Fire: Now follows a true account of what was represented to another Committee of Parliament, touching the insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery, &c.*

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At the Committee appointed to certifie Informations touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the Increase of Popery.

*Ordered*, That these several informations proceeded on, in pursuance of the said Power of the Committee, be reported to the House in reference to the insolency of the Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery.

As to the increase of Popery, Mr. *Hancock* Minister of *Chilmoth* in *Wilts*, Informs, that meeting with one Mr. *Thompson*, about a month since, coming from *Mass* out of *Somerset-House* Chappel, and discoursing to him about his Religion, asked him if there were many lately turned to it? *Thompson* answered, *Thousands*. And being demanded what encouragement there was it? Replied, There would be a *Change Suddenly*.

*Report his Carriage at the Committee.*

Mr. *Thompson* being summoned before the Committee, did behave himself very insolently: They have commanded me to report it. Being asked, Whether he had not a Shop in *Somerset-House* where *Popish Books* and *Popish Knacks* were sold? He said, He had; and that his Man sold such Books and *Beads*, and other thing.

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And said, there was one Crucifix, no Reliques, but wished he had some good ones, He said he was a *Roman Catholique*, and thanks God for it. He said he was no Priest, but wished he were in a capacity to be one. He said he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy nor would do it. He said he would take any Oath that any Christian Prince should require, but not the Oath of Allegiance, intimating some mixture in it. He said he had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Spain*, and was a Subject to the King of *Spain*.

One *Mr. Ash* a Minister, late of *Capel* in *Surrey*, Informed That being at *Caufield* in *Lancashire* this last Summer, he saw great resort on *Sundays* to *Caufield* House, the house of a *Papist*; and asking some that were going thither, what the occasion was of their resort thither, they told him they were going to *Mass*, and that one *Mr. Robinson* a *Priest* did say *Mass*.

*Mr. Ash* did likewise Inform, That he thought the number of those that went to *Mass* to that House *Sundays*, was as great as the *Protestants* that went to the *Parish Church*.

One *Mr. Welden* Deputy Ordinary for *Middlesex*, did Inform, That in his accustomed attendance on the Prisoners at *Newgate* about the times of Execution, *Romish Priests*, particularly one *Mr. Harvey* a *Jesuite*, hath constantly used to resort to the *Prison* at those times; and doth perswade the Prisoners to become *Papists*; and that divers have been altered in their Religion by them, and turned to *Popery*.

*Mr. Wootton* Informeth, That on the 16th of *October*, he went to *Newgate*, and meeting with one *Howard* an Under Keeper at the door, desired to speak to with *Mr. Hubert* the *Frenchman*, who was then condemned. *Howard* told him that he could not speak with him yet, for *Mr. Harvy* the *Queen Mothers* Confessor was in private with him, and said this *Harvy* used frequently to come to the *Prison* after condemnation; and that after where one Prisoner dyed a *Protestant*, many died *Papists*. *Mr Wootton* said, that after some stay he saw *Mr. Harvy* come out from *Mr. Hubert*, and then he was admitted to have speech with him.

*Mr. Cawdry*, Keeper of *Newgate*, did Inform, That *Mr. Harvey* the *Jesuite* did frequent the *Prison* at *Newgate* about the times of Execution, upon the pretence of the *Queens Charity*, and did spend much time with the Prisoners in private, and particularly, did so before the last Execution, night after night. *Mr. Cawdry* said

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likewise of the nine that suffered, eight died Papists, whereof some he knew were Protestants when they came into the Prison.

It appeared upon several Informations, that Mr. *Harvey* and other Priests, did not onely resort to *Newgate* at times of Execution, but likewise to the *White-Lyon* in *Southwark*, and other places in the Country, and used their endeavours to pervert dying Prisoners.

*Thomas Barnet* late a Papist informed, that when he was a Papist, and resorted to Gentlemens houses in *Barkshire* that were Papists, there was almost in every Gentlemans house a Priest, and instanced in divers private Gentlemen in that County. Others did inform the like in *Surrey*.

Mr *Cottman* did informe, that one Mr. *Carpenter*, late a Preacher at *College Hill*, did in discourse tell *Cottman*, 'that the Judgements of God upon this Kingdom by the Plague last year, and lately by the fire in *London* were come upon this Land & People, for their forsaking the true Roman Catholick Religion, and shaking off obedience to the *Pope*, and that if they would return to the Church of *Rome*, the *Pope* would rebuild the City at his own charge'. *Carpenter* said likewise to the said *Cottman* 'That if he would come and hear him preach the next Sunday at his house in *Queens Street*, he would give twenty reasons to prove that the Roman Catholick was the true Religion, and his the false; and that our Bible had a thousand falsities in it, and that there was no true Scripture but at *Rome*, and their Church'.

*Carpenter* at the Committee confessed, that he had formerly taken Orders from the Church of *Rome*, to be a Priest, but said he had renounced that Church, and taken Orders in *England*.

The next thing is the Information of their Insolency, and I shall begin with their *Scorning* and *Despising* the Bible.

One *Thomas Williams* an Officer in Sir *William Bowyers* Regiment, informed, That one *Ashley* a Papist, seeing a woman reading in a Bible, asked her why she read in that *Damnable Presbyterian* Bible, and said, a *Play-Book* was as good.

*Thomas Barnet* of *Bingfield* in *Barkshire* informed, That being at one Mr. *Youngs* house in *Bingfield*, at *Bartlemew* tide last, Mr. *Young* said to the brother of this *Thomas*, in his hearing, *That within two years there should not be a Protestant in England.* *Thomas Barnet* informed further, That being at Mr. *Doncasters* house in *Bingfield* one Mr. *Thural* son in law to Mr. *Doncaster*, (and both Papists) said to this

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Informer, (who was then likewise a Papist,) *The people take me for a poor fellow, but I shall find a thousand or two thousand pounds to raise a party of Horse, to make Mr. Hathorns and Mr. Bulcocks fat guts ly on the ground; for it is no more to kill an Heretick, than to kill a Grashopper; and that it was happy for him that he was a Catholick, for by that means he shall be one that shall be mounted.*

Mr. *Linwood* a Scrivener in *White-chappel*, informed, That about the 20. of *October* last meeting with one Mr. *Binks* a Papist, and discoursing with him, *Binks* told him, *That there was amongst the Papists as great a Design as ever was in England, and he thought it would be executed suddenly.* Being asked how many Papists there were about *London*? He answered, *About seaven thousand, and in England an hundred thousand were Armed.*

Mr. *Oaks* a Physician dwelling in *Shadwel*, informed, That a little after the burning of *London*, one Mr. *Carpenter* a Minister, came to his house on *Tower-wharf*, and spake to him to this purpose: *I will not say that I am a Papist, but this I will say, that I had rather dy the death of the Papists, and that my soul should be raised with their resurrection, than either to be Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist: and I tell, on the Papist have*

*hitherto been his Majesties best Fortification; for when Presbyterians, Independents and Anabaptists forsook and opposed him, then they stood by him and helped him; and he is now resolved to commit himself into their hands. And take it upon my word in a short time, the Papists will lay you as low as that house; (pointing to an house that was demolished) for they are able to raise Forty thousand men, and I believe, the next work will be cutting of throats.* This was sworn by Mr. Oaks, before Sir John Frederick a member of the House.

*Mirian Pilkington* being present when the words were spoken, doth affirm them all save onely those, That the King is resolved to commit himself into the Papists hands. Those she doth not remember.

*Henry Young* a Distiller of Hop-waters, informed, That about *April 1661*, being in the Jesuites College in *Antwerp*, one *Powel*, an English Jesuite persuaded him to turn a Roman Catholick, and said, *That if he intended to save his life and estate he had best turn so for within seaven years he should see all England of that Religion.* *Young* replied, *That the City of London would never endure it.* *Powel* answered, *That within five or six years they would breek the power*

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*and strength of London in pieces, and that they had been contriving it these twenty years; and that if Young did live, he should see it done.* The said *Young* did likewise inform, that shortly after his coming into *England*, one *Thompson* and *Copervel*, both Papists, did several times say to him, *That within five or six years at the farthest, the Roman Catholick Religion should be all over this Kingdom.*

*Jasper Goodwin* of *Darking* in the County of *Surrey*, informed, that about a month since, one *Edward Complin* a Papist said to him, *You must all be Papists shortly, and that now he was not ashamed to own himself a Roman Catholick, and to own his Priests,* (naming two that were in *Darking* in the

houses of two Papists) and likewise said, *that in 24 hours warning the Roman Catholicks could raise thirty thousand men as well armed as any Men in Christendom.*

*William Warner of Darking*, informed, That the said *Edward Complin* did tell him, *That the Roman Catholicks in England, could in twenty four hours raise Thirty Thousand Horse and arms;* and upon saying so pull'd out his Crucifix and Bedes, and said, *He was not ashamed of his Religion.*

*John Graunger of Darking*, informed, that about a year since being in his house reading the Bible, one *Thomas Collins*, a Papist, said to him, *Are you still a Church goer? Had you not better turn Roman Catholick? If you stay till you are forced, none will abide you.* And said further, *That there was a Man beyond sea had prophesied, That in Sixty Six, if the King did not settle the Romish Religion, in England, he would be banished out of the Kingdom, and all his posterity.* And *Collins* further said, *That he being lately turned a Roman Catholick, he would not be a Protestant again for all the world;* He wished *Graunger* again, in the hearing of his Wife, (which she affirmed to the Committee) to turn his Religion; for all the said Prophesie would come to pass in *Sixty six.*

*Robert Holloway of Darking* aforesaid, informed, That one *Stephen Griffin*, a Papist said to him, *That all the bloud that had been shed in the late civil War, was nothing to that which would be shed this year in England.* *Holloway* demanded a reason for these words in regard the Kingdom was in peace, and no likelihood of trouble; and said, *Do you Papists intend to rise and cut our throats when we are asleep?* *Griffin* answered, *That's no matter, if you live you shall see it.*

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*Ferdinand Massido* a Portugal, and some few years since a Romish Priest, but turning Protestant, it formed, That one Father *Taff* a Jesuite, did the last

year tell him at *Paris*, *That if all England did not return to the Church of Rome, they should all be destroyed the next year.*

Mr. *Samuel Cettman* of the middle Temple, Barister, informed, That about two years since, one Mr *Jeviston*, a Popish Priest, and called by the name of *Father Garret*, did Perswade him to turn *Papist*, and he should want neither profit nor preferment: Mr *Cotman* objected, that he intended to practise the *Law*, which he could not do if he turned *Papist*, because he must take the Oath of *Supremacy* at his being called to the *Bar*: and if he were a *Papist* he must not take it. Mr *Jeviston* replied, *Why not take the Oath? It is an unlawful Oath and void ipso facto*: And after some pause, said further; *First take the Oath, and then I will convert you*; He said further, *The King will not own himself to be Head of the Church*; And said further, *You in England that set up the Dutch to destroy our Religion, shall find that they shall be the men to PULL DOWN YOURS.*

*Man Stanley* an Officer to the Duke of *Ormond* in *Ireland*, informed, That coming out of *Ireland*, with one *Oriel* (who owned himself of the Order of the *Jesuites*, and commissioned from the Pope to be Lord Primate of *Ireland* and Archbishop of *Armagh*) and falling into some discourse with him, he told him, *That there had been a difference between him and some other of the Jesuites in Ireland, and that part of the occasion was, that one Father Walsh and some others of the Jesuits there, did dispense with the Papists in Ireland, to take the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, by virtue of a standing Commission from the Pope which he had to do it, during this Kings Life; and Oriel thought they ought not to do it by virtue of the standing Commission, but should take a new Commission from the Pope every year to do it. And likewise, That he brought Eight Boys out of Ireland whom he intended to carry to Flanders to breed up in some of the Colleges there. And at his taking shipping to go to Flanders, he shook his foot towards England terming it Egypt and said, He would not return to England till he came with Fifty thousand Men at his heels.*

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A French Merchant, being a Papist, living in *St Michaels-Lane London*, writes in a letter to his Friend, *That a great Number of Man and Arms were ready here, if those he wrote to were ready there*. He being upon the intercepting of this Letter, searched, Forty *Firelocks* were found in his House, ready loaden; which were carried to *Fishmongers-Hall*, a month or more before the Fire, and he committed to Prison, but since Released.

A poor Woman retaining to one *Belsons* house, a Papist, about *Darkin* in *Surrey*, was solicited, that she and her Husband would turn *Roman Catholicks*; which if they did voluntarily *Now*, they would be accepted of; but if they staid a little longer, they would be forced whether they would or not; and then they would not be esteemed. This was deposed before *Sir Adam Brown*, a Member of Parliament.

A Complaint being made against a Sugar baker at *Fox-Hall*; his House was searched by Lieut. Col. *Luntly*, who found there several Guns, with such Locks, as no Englishman (who was at the taking of them) could discharge; together with Brass Blunderbusses and Fire works, of a very furious and burning nature. Trial being made of a small part of them, the Materials were discerned to be Sulphur, *Aquavita* and Gunpowder, whatever else.

In a Letter to *Sir John Frederick* and *Mr. Nathaniel Heron*, from *Horsham* in *Sussex*, the 8<sup>th</sup>. of *September* 1666. Subscribed *Henry Chowne*. Wherein is mentioned, that the said *Henry Chowne* had thoughts to come to *London* that week, but that they were in Distraction there concerning the *Papists*, fearing they would shew themselves all that day: And that he had been to search the Papists Houses within six miles of that place. He with another Justice of Peace met with the Gentlemans Brother (who is a Priest) going to *London*, whom they searched, and found a Letter about him which he had received that morning from his Sister twenty miles off from him, Wherein is expressed, *That a great Business is in hand, not to be committed to Paper, as the Times be*.

Your Committee have thought fit to give no Opinion upon these Informations;  
but leave the matter of Fact to your Judgements.

I am commanded to tell you, That your Committee have several other things  
of this nature under their Inquiry.

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As a further Instance of the Audacious and insolent behaviours of these  
*Popish Recusants*, take the following Copy of Verses made, and then  
scattered abroad by some of their Party, in *Westminster Hall*, and several  
other places about the City, and elsewhere in the Kingdom.

*Cover la feu, ye Hugenots,  
That have so branded us with plots  
And henceforth no more Bonfires make,  
Till ye arrive the Stygian Lake.  
For down ye must, ye Hereticks,  
For all your hopes in sixty six.  
The hand against you is so steady,  
Your Babylon is faln already.  
And if you will avoid that hap,  
Return into your Mothers lap;  
The Devil a mercy is for those,  
That Holy Mother Church Oppose.  
Let not your Clergie you betray,  
Great eyes are open, and see the way.  
Return in time, if you will save  
Your souls, your lives, or ought you have  
And if you live till sixty seven,  
Confess you had fair warning given.  
Then see in time, or ay be blind.  
Short time will shew you what's behind.*

Dated the 5th day of *November*, in the year 1666. and the first year of the Restoration of the Church of *Rome* in *England*.

Not long after the Burning of *London*, Mr *Brook Bridges* a young Gentleman of the *Temple*, as he was going to attend Divine Service in the *Temple-Church*, in a Pew there found this following Paper, which immediately, either by himself or a Relation of his, was delivered to Sir *William Morrice*, one of his Majesties principal Secretaries of State; the Contents of the Paper are as follows.

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#### A Warning to Protestants.

I who have been *Papist* from my infancy, till of late, and in Zeal for their horrid Principles, had too great a share in the Firing of the City; and did intend to do further mischief to the *Protestants* (of which I am now, and ever shall be a Member) do upon abhorrency of that Villany, and Religion that hath moved me to it, declare to all *Protestants* the approach of their Sudden Ruine, that it may be prevented, if it be not too late.

When I, together with other *Papists*, both *French*, *Irish* and *English*, fired the City; others were employed to massacre the *Protestants*, we thinking thereby to destroy the Heads of your Religion; but the Massacre was disappointed by the fear of him who was the chief Agent in this Villany. And the *Fire* not having done all its Work, they have often endeavoured to fire the remaining part. They intend likewise to land the *French* upon you: To whose Assistance they all intend to come, and for that purpose are stored with Arms: and have so far deceived the King, that they have the command of most part of the Army and the Sea-Ports. The *French* intend to land at *Dover*, that Garrison being most *Papist*. And the *Papists* in *England* have express Command from *Rome*, to hasten their business before the next Parliament, and to dispatch. Therefore as you love your Lives and Fortunes, prevent your Ruine, by removing all the *Papists* in *England*, especially Colonel *Legg* from the *Tower*, and the Lord

*Douglass*, and all his Adherents and Souldiers, from *Dover*, and by Disarming all *Papists*. I have such an abhorrency, that I would willingly undergo any punishment for it, and declare my self openly, were I not assured that I could do you more good in concealing my Name for the present. Delay not from following these Directions as you love your Lives; And be not deceived by any Pretences whatsoever.

FINIS