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## **A Treatise of Specters**

**Bromhall, Thomas**

**[S.l.], 1658**

Of the same Spectacle, out of an Elegy of George Sabine

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go over, you must get a bigger. And passing over the second time, came 12. Monks, clad partly in white, and some in black, with ugly hook-noses, and they going into the Ship, were also carried over, who when they went out, others presently stepped in, and sailed over. But whither the Monks went, and whither the Ship, or how he came back to the place of his rest, the Sailer knew not. And he also within a small time was very ill. On the third night the like chanced to the third man, who being awakened, was likewise charged to make use of a new Ship, to transport more Monks, who not knowing where to acquire one, seemed to go through rough places, and rugged Rocks, till he found a Ship that was new made, into which many Monks, (some of small, others of a great stature, having on black, white, and severall kinds of hoods) were Shipped, passing straitwaies through the same River, not speaking one word, and when they were come to an uneven place beset with Trees, they refused to go out, bidding them to Sail on. When the Monks went forth, the Ship of it self came against the Tide, near the City *Spira*. The fisherman not knowing himself; was returned home, and the Ship restored again into his own place. The Monks, when at first they questioned them whither they went, answered towards the City *Basil* to the Council. There is one that describes these passages in an Epistle, that calls himself *Suredabm Cancrinus*, who also displays and unfolds this Apparition to the life.

Of the same Spectacle, out of an *Elegy*  
of *GEORGE SABINE*.

Here is an ancient City seated on,  
The River *Reine*, not far from *Vangion*.  
People, call'd *Nemetes*, enjoy'd it; there  
Four Roman Generals intomb'd were.  
*Cæsarean* cohorts made it their seat of old,  
whence the name *Spira* at this day't doth hold.  
Here liv'd one who no noble birth could vaunt,  
Of a small fishing Ship, an occupant;  
In which when *Titan* had withdrawn his beams,  
He us'd to deceive the Tenants of the Streams.  
Whil'st he his Nets and Hooks did fit and trim,  
Of gliding *Reine* almost upon the brim.  
Behold a shape presented to his sight,  
Of one he knew not in the edg of night:  
His vesture was (as Friars use to wear,)  
Such a black cowl, his crown was shaven bare,  
The Fisher greets him at his wonted rate,  
And asks him, what makes him abroad so late?

He



He answer'd he was sent from far by's Lord,  
 Desir'd him he would waft him o're that Foord;  
 That he might th' sooner gain the other side,  
 Which curtesy he granted, ne'er deny'd.  
 Now the night's near half spent, Bootes wain  
 Had turn'd its course, when, in the virid plain,  
 Behold five more in Hoods towards him came,  
 Whom he saluted in good Fortunes name;  
 And ask'd them, whither they so late were bound,  
 When night had finish'd half her constant round.  
 One of the five reply'd: Dangers constrain  
 Us thus by night, our safety to obtain.  
 We are infested by a wicked rout,  
 That seek to kill us, 'cause we are devout.  
 If in thee any love of good abide,  
 Then waft us in thy Boat to th' other side;  
 That we may passe the waters by thy means,  
 And be not hindred by the swelling streams;  
 So shall thy labour prosper at thy will,  
 And so thy Nets the Fish shall crowding fill:  
 He gave consent, and them his Boat affoarded,  
 Whereby his Ship they soon and safely boarded;  
 But then (sayes he) who shall the fraught defray,  
 One of them answer'd, we've no coin to pay,  
 (Thou knowst) to th' people since we are so batefull,  
 They seldome give us ought, but we'l be gratefull,  
 If once our fortune shall establisht be,  
 We'l well reward thee for thy curtesy.  
 He loost from shore, now's Ship did gently glide,  
 Almost in th' middle of the pleasant Tide:  
 When spi'ssy clouds ore-weild the Stars, the Sails,  
 Were over-fill'd with storming Southern gales.  
 The waters roar, with rouling waves; now rain,  
 Adds to the storm, and joyns the Stars to th' main.  
 The Marriner, with horroure being struck,  
 Cries out, what causes this unthought ill-luck?  
 I saw no presage of a coming shower,  
 When Sol departed to his western bower:  
 No Swallow hover'd o're the waves, my eyes  
 Did see no Heron: when the Moon did rise,  
 She was not black, nor pale, nor Phæbus light,  
 Abated of its lustre near the night.  
 These words disturbed were, by th' storming rain,  
 And by the raging waves oth' foamy main:  
 The Ship was neer o're-turned by the blast,  
 The waves had almost covered the Mast.  
 The Marriner with stretcht-out hands to Heaven,  
 Implored thence the divine aid. what even

Thou



Thou wicked wretch, dost pray? (Says one  
 Oth' five) cease Sirrah, and let God alone:  
 And then took up an heavy Row, which th' poor  
 Unhappy Man had us'd to wield before;  
 with which his Shoulders he so basted o're,  
 That even unto death he beat him sore.  
 At last the Devils wiles appear'd; 'twas plain,  
 There did no part oth' fraud unseen remain.  
 Their bodies vanisht into the whirling wind,  
 Nothing was left but stinking smells behind.  
 Then soon the Clouds were drawn, and day appear'd,  
 The Winds allayed and the weather clear'd.  
 Frighted herewith, e'n senselesse he doth lie,  
 With's Ship toth' shore, and there onth' Grasse doth lye;  
 'Till Sol appear'd, when by a neighbour swain,  
 Unto his home he is convey'd again.  
 when telling all to those his friends were by,  
 Clos'd up his eyes, and so is said to dye.  
 when bright Aurora did next Morn appear,  
 And with her Crocean Chariot th' sky did clear.  
 A passage like to this, the time except,  
 And better issue to the thing, expect.  
 when first bright Sol onth' top oth' Mountain shone,  
 A traveller gan i' journey all alone.  
 whilst he was on the coasts of Vangion,  
 Just where they placed had the first Mile-Stone,  
 Behold a Coach, all of a sable hiew,  
 Filled with Monks, which seven horses drew,  
 Toked in order; but one of the four  
 wheels, with the axetree, from the Coach were tore.  
 The Coachman that did rule the reins therein,  
 Had a most rufull nose, and visage grim.  
 The frighted traveller stood whilst it past  
 By him, so found they Spectrals were, at last  
 The Coach onth' sudden, mounted into th' wind,  
 when fire and smoak did follow it behind.  
 And the sad Omens of ensuing war,  
 A noise as arms ith' Ayre did clash and jar:  
 He made return toth' City, told it, and i' me  
 It was made known by good authority.  
 Therefore to you, wh' in other regions dwell,  
 I thought my meter bound these things to tell,  
 And had they wanted an Interpretation,  
 I would have made it. Now the German Nation,  
 By their King's discords, heard of nought but jars;  
 And now their Monks inflamed had the wars.  
 This was the Tempest, this the disjoynted wheel,  
 This was the smoak and flame, This joyntly weel

Commend



Commend unto our God; desire him lay  
These Tempests, hee'l be good to them that pray.



**M**agdalena Crucia Hispana, in the chief City of all Corduba Ba-  
tica, in her tender years, was (whether by reason of Poverty,  
or Devotion it is uncertain) by her poor Parents, placed in the  
Nunnery of St. Clara. (which she afterwards re-built all anew, and  
endowed with a fair revenue). This Magdalena, I say, being in-  
snared by a Devill that appeared to her in the form of an *Ethiop*  
using many sugred and pleasureable enticements with which ten-  
der years are most taken; began to converse very familiarly with  
him, but with most severe interminations, that no mortall should  
be made privy to their familiarity. She conversing with the De-  
vill almost every day, grew more in knowledg then could be ex-  
pected from her youth, and was admired of all that knew her for  
her stupendious knowledg, and ingenuity, and singular piety,  
which the smoothnesse of her behaviour, and the austerity of her  
life did seem to manifest; she had scarce attained the age of twelve  
years when this evill spirit, taking the opportunity of bringing her  
into his full and absolute possession, with glorious and gilded words  
moved a marriage betwixt them, and easily for the experience she  
had had of her improvement, by his means, was this ambitious  
girl perswaded to it. They joyn hands, are married, and at last  
lye together. Magdalena in lieu of a Dower, promises him the use  
of her body, to discourse with her, converse with her, and lye with  
her. The *Ethiop* on the other side, promised to make her a large  
Dower, and that she should by reason of her illustrious sanctity and  
wisdom, bear great sway throughout all *Spain* for thirty years  
and upwards, insomuch that she should excell, or at least equall  
the most famous that ever went before her. Nor would this lying  
spirit, in this particular, seem false that so by this his bride, he might  
deceive all *Spain*. And whensoever they enjoyed their stolen de-  
lights, his servant (for this *Ethiop* for the honour of the businesse,  
kept his man) taking her coule, to the life imitated (like some sup-  
posititious *Sofia*) in the Cloister abroad, or in the Temple, her coun-  
tenance, behaviour in walking, singing, praying, eating, and  
all other the like. And if perchance, when he had wearied his La-  
dy with pleasures, he went (in pretence of looking that things  
went right in his Mannour) about the World, at his return he  
told her all that hapned in his travell worth the telling. So she be-  
ing taken prisoner of *Franciscus* King of the *Gauls*; so coming to  
the Knowledg of *Romes* being sack't, and telling she was told it  
by divine Revelation, she grew in great esteem with the chief and  
noble Men of the Kingdome, and obtained the dignity of Abbesse,  
all the other Nuns willingly yielding to such eminent sanctity: and  
entertaining the businesse with exceeding joy in that they concei-  
ved great part of the glory, redounded to them who were her in-  
structours. She was famous for many miracles, but those onely lu-  
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