

(37) BALLAUGH 28 December 1712

Alice Cowley of this parish & Isabel Gawn of Peel presented for many practices in sorcery, &c, concerning w^m & the persons that dealt wth them, Depositions are taken by the Rect^r.

They are censur'd in particular orders; Alice Cowley being try'd by a Jury, who have left her to a ffine & Punishment.

Vide A. B. C.

At KK Michael, 26. ffeb. 1712.

A. Christoph^r Calow of KK Maughold & Henry Quay of KK Michael are bound in 3^{ll} ad usñ Domini, that John Curlet jun^r of Ballaugh, & his wife shall never hereafter apply themselves to any person for Charms, or any unlawful means, towards the ffurtherance of Conception, as the s^d Jo: Curlet's Wife lately did to Alice Cowley of Ballaugh afs^d neither will they have recourse to Charmers in any matter whatsoever.

J:Woods Reg. Ep.

B. Jo: Curlet Sen^r obliges himself in 3^{ll} ad usum Dñi not to have recourse to Charmers hereafter.

C. Gilb^t Cain's Security of 3^{ll} to the same purpose, is W^m Cry.

(195) 9 February 1713

Certain Examinations taken at Ballaugh Church touching some practices in Sorcery or Witchcraft by Alice Cowley of Ballaugh and Isabel Gawn of Peel this 9th day of Feb. 1712.

(a) John Looney of KK Michael sworn & examin'd deposeth & saith that ab^t 2 years before he was married, Isabel Gawn came to the house where he liv'd, & told him, if he gave her a 9 penny piece, she w^d give him something that w^d make a young woman fall in love wth him, upon w^{ch} this Deponent telling her that he knew not where such a piece was to be had, she answer'd, if he w^d give her 7^d she w^d find such a piece her self, but this Deponent gave her no money, But afterwards coming into the s^d Isabel Gawn's company at Peel, he desir'd her to give him w^t she had promis'd him before to cause a young woman to fall in love wth him, And going wth the s^d Isabel to her house, she gave him a certain powder in a paper, w^{ch} he believes might be the powder of some of the bright stones that are at Fox-dale, and told him he must not carry it out of y^e house, till he p^d her for it, whereupon this Deponent returned the s^d powder to her again, not thinking fit to pay money for the same. And further saith not. | John Lonney L

(b) Joⁿ Curlet jun^r of Brooghjarg sworn & examin'd deposeth and saith, that being told some years ago, that Alice Cowley & Isabel Gawn had taken up some mire that was ab^t the threshold & put it under the chair where his Bride sate on the day of their marriage, this Deponent going afterwards in company wth the s^d Alice Cowley to Douglass, he ask'd her if it was in her power to cause his wife to have children she answered that it was not, if God had order'd otherwise, But some time after this Deponents wife shew'd him some thing w^{ch} the s^d Alice had given her to cause her to have children, viz^t certain herbs pounded & the shavings of pewter among them, w^{ch} things this Deponent charg' d his wife to throw away & not to use them at all.

(c) He likewise declares he heard his Father say, that Joⁿ Curlet their Neighbour had told him, that Alice Cowley came to him the s^d Neighbour, and said he had had but little benefit of his crop of corn for some years, (viz^t) that y^e Tarrey was out of it, but if he w^d give her something, she w^d restore him that advantage again.

(d) And further this Deponent declares that many years since the s^d Alice Cowley coming into his Fathers house, & there being some discourse ab^t milk & cattle, & his Mother saying they had but little milk for that y^e Cattle did not favour them, the s^d Alice told her that matter cou'd easily be help'd, And afterwards she bought somewhat to y^e house to be given to y^e Cows, w^{ch} was accordingly put into y^e Cows belly, & they took bull a few days after, but had no Calves that year; And further saith not | Joⁿ Curlet jun^r

(e) Joⁿ Curlet Sen^r of Brooghjarg being sworn on the Evangelists deposeth that being in Peel many years since, some people in his company were saying their cows

were fat enough & yet went not a bulling, w^{ch} this Deponent s^d was his case too, upon w^{ch} Isabel Gawn whisper'd him in the ear & told him his cows sh^d go a bulling if he pleas'd, for that she w^d give him a certain thing that sh^d do the business, but before he went away she told him Alice Cowley w^d give him the thing she spoke of, for his Cows, And accordingly Alice Cowley gave him some what like pounded herbs & butter amongst 'em, w^{ch} being given to his Cows, the s^d Cows wer all seen to take bull soon after, but none of 'em prov'd in calf, except ffinlo Curlets Cow, w^{ch} had not any of the stuff given her; & w^{ch} was not seen to go a bulling. And further saith not. | Joⁿ Curlet Sen^r X

(f) Katherin Curlet als Shimin wife of Joⁿ Curlet jun^r of Brooghjarg, sworn & examin'd, deposeth that Knock sharry wife telling her, that her son Joⁿ had seen Alice Cowley take up some mire from the threshold & place it under this Deponents chair on the day of her marriage, this Deponent not proving wth child for some years was advis'd to draw blood on the s^d Alice, w^{ch} she deffer'd doing for a time, Alice having given her something like ashes wth some green stuff amongst it & some w^t like the shavings of pewter, w^{ch} she s^d w^d cause this Deponent to have children, it she mixt it wth drink, & drank it fasting, but that it w^d do her no good, if she gave not money to the s^d Alice upon w^{ch} this Deponent afterwards gave her money (viz^t) either 7^d or 14^d, she does not remember w^{ch}. And this Deponent not thinking fit to make use of the stuff that was given her, resolv'd rather to draw blood on both the s^d Alice Cowley & Isabel Gawn, w^{ch} she accordingly did, going to Peel & marking Isabel in her own house, the s^d Isabel having first told her, if she brought some drink, she w^d make her somew^t up, that sh^d cause her to bear children, And a few days after she likewise drew blood on Alice Cowley & found her self a little time after wth child, of w^{ch} child she was deliver'd,

(g) But not proving wth child again in some years & being told that Alice Cowley had s^d she shou^d never have children, if she did not draw blood on her again, this Deponent intended to have done so, but that she was afraid of being punish'd, however she took a certain thing the s^d Alice gave her to take on drink, like pounded herbs, & made use of the same, as Alice directed, but found no benefit by it, tho Alice assur'd her it w^d cause her to have children.

(h) This Deponent further declares that for the s^d Alice's good will & that she might make her have children, she gave the s^d Alice in money at several times 2^s 11^d within this year & half besides the money she first gave her. And further saith not. | Kath Curley als Shimin X

(i) W^m Crain of Ballabeg in Ballaugh sworn & examin'd deposeth that coming into the Geilshaghs house, Alice Cowley was there & asking him to give her drink, he denied to give her any upon w^{ch} she s^d he might well give her drink, for that gooldings or basket bruce were removed from his flats; And further saith not | W^m Crain X

(j) Marg^t Caley als Stephan of KK X^t sworn & examin'd deposeth & saith that Alice Cowley coming into her house abt 2 or 3 years ago, the s^d Alice Cowley several times ask'd her a 14 penny piece, w^{ch} she gave her at last, fearing if she had any skill more than ordinary, that she might do her some harm. And further saith not | Marg^t Caley als Stephan X

(k) Gilb^t Cain of Ballaugh sworn & examin'd deposeth that after his daughter had fallen sick last harvest; it was s^d by some people that his s^d daughter had fallen under the power of some evil thing, i.e. as he express'd it in manks, or gheddyn foill, And it being told him that Alice Cowley had said that she w^d cause his s^d daughter to have a long sickness, this Deponent went to the s^d Alice (believing if it was in her power to hurt his child, that she might also do her good) & desir'd her to give something that might relieve his said daughter, And after this Deponent had spent abt 10^d or 1^s wth the s^d Alice at the Ale=House, she gave him some drink for his daughter in a bottle, & s^d some words by way of spell or charm over it; And this Deponent giving the s^d drink to his daughter, she found no benefit by it.

(l) And further this Deponent declares that the s^d Alice, gave drink twice afterwards to his s^d daughter after y^e former manner, & demanded 7^d of this Deponent, w^{ch} he not having of his own, borrowd of another & gave to the s^d Alice.

(m) He likewise declares that Ballatoar wife told some of his family, that Alice Cowley had s^d, That this Deponents daughter sh^d never recover, except she the s^d Alice w^d recover her. And further saith not | Gilb^t Cain X

(n) Kath. Moor als Shimmin of Ballatoar in Ballaugh, sworn & examin'd, deposeth that when she ask'd Alice Cowley, w^t hope she was in of Gilb^t Cain's daughter, she answer'd, if she the s^d Alice could not do her good : that she never w^d recover & that her Father needed to go no further, or words to that purpose, And further saith not, | Kath. Moor als Shimmin. X

(o) Marg^t Goldsmith sworn & examin'd deposeth that in the begining of harvest last, namely on Ballaugh=ffair day she met Alice Cowley, who told her, she w^d give her something that w^d make Stephen Tear fall in love wth her, and this Deponent promising her money, she sent her daughter who is now servant at the Geilshagh's for the s^d money, & this deponent sent her 7 groats by her s^d daughter & an old smock; And afterwards she her self gave the s^d Alice 6^d & rec^d a certain powder from her like snuff, w^{ch} she order'd her to give Stephen Tear on drink.

(p) Likewise this Deponent declares that on S^t Simon & Jude's day last she gave the s^d Alice on the afores^d acct 2^s more, w^{ch} the s^d Alice order'd her to lay down on the hearth in her sister's house in KK X^t, & she the s^d Alice took up the s^d money, & promis'd to make good w^t she had vow'd to her before, (viz^t) to make Stephen Tear be in love wth her.

(q) And further this Deponent declares that she heard Alice Cowley tell this Deponents sister the same day, That if her Mother in Law did her any harm, upon her [the s^d Deponents sister] giving her 14^d, she the s^d Alice w^d do something to her s^d Mother in Law, that w^d soon remove her out of the way; but the s^d sister telling her she had not 14^d, she bid her go to her Neighbour & borrow it, but her sister went not, And further saith not | Marg^t Goldsmith X

(r) Edward Lawson of KK Andreas & his wife Joney Lawson als Canneen, sworn & examined, depose & say that a son of theirs being sick ab^t a year & a half ago, & having been told that his disorder was w^t they call ye Archeyd, they sent for Alice Cowley, who undertaking to cure their s^d Son, us^d certain words at their first coming to the house & likewise repeated the same words several times before she went away, w^{ch} s^d words, as near as they remember were these following, Faarnanagh Juuldoo my doo Yiarmanagh, Goym's eh, as bee eh aggy, as cha derry geill da ny smoo.

(s) These Deponents likewise declare that the s^d Alice Cowley took a penny worth of Ale & gave it to the Child who was very ill that night, but grew somew^t better next day,

(t) Also that she left Some herbs w^{ch} she order'd to be put in lant & water, & the boys shirt to be wash'd therein.

(u) And further these Deponents Say, that afterwards their s^d son not being quite recovered, they sent to the s^d Alice again, who sent 'em back by the messenger somewhat like butter wth a kind of greet or sand amongst it, & s^d it cost the weight of it in silver; w^{ch} s^d stuff was likewise given to the boy, & 14^d was afterwards p^d to the s^d Alice for the same. And further say not | Edw^d Lawson + | Joney Lawson als Canneon +

All the foregoing Depositions were taken this 9th of Feb. 1712

By & Before me | W^m Walker Vic^r Gen^l

(195.1) 24 February 1713

I William Kermod being required to declare y^e truth of what I know touching y^e wicked practices & dealings of Alice Cowley of Ballaugh, I say and doe affirme it for truth, my wife being [sore?] afflicted by a suddon distempor, some said y^e Palsey, & unable to move a foot, or turn in bed, went by y^e advice of some persons to gett a Cure for his wife from y^e said Alice & meeting her at her own house Aug^t 15.1711 I told her my errand to wit, to gett a charm for a gilch, w^{ch} troubled my wife; whereupon y^e said Alice said, she would come to see her, and demanded of me 14^d which I gave her, and meeting her againe the same day in y^e fair of Ballaugh, she asked me whether I had moneyes, I confirmed, I had, then she sought a groat to buy drink to make a charm, w^{ch} I gave her; and next day she came with it to my wife, but there was nothing in y^e drink that was visible to us, & my wife drank it; but was nothing the better for it; Att y^e said Alice going away, my wife have her an old petticoate for her trouble, but never received any further Charm or direction from y^e s^d Alice neither did seek to her for any more. This to the best of my memory is y^e whole truth of what past betwixt us, w^{ch} I will dipose if required, As witnesse my mark to my name this 24th of ffebr. 1712/3

Before me | Sam: Watteworth Archdⁿ

William Kermod's m^{rk} X

(195.2) 25 February 1713

Jony Brew y^e s^d Will: Kermotts wife upon examination saith, y^t y^e s^d Alice brought her y^e groats worth of drink which she drank, but saw nothing therein, neither did she find any benefit thereby, nor did gave her any thing but that old petticoate above mentioned; and also saith y^t y^e said Alice came afterwards to see her on her way home from Ballawonnell in KK Bride, where she had been seeing of sick Lad, but said nor did nothing to her, said only, putt thy trust in God & he will help thee; and further she cannot declare: This she will depose for y^e whole truth of what past betwixt y^e s^d Alice & her as witnesse her m^{rk} to her name this 25. of ffebr.1712

Before me | Sam: Waleworth Archdⁿ

Jony Kermod als Brew her m^{rk} X

(195.3) [25 February 1713]

Beshie Martin als Tear ye young wife of Knock a dooney upon examination saith, yt ye within Alice as she was passing by came into ye house, she herself with her mother & maid Servant being at home, and Alice seeing her sickly said to ye s^d Beshie, it is blood yt troubles you, I will give you somthing for it, which was a few bruised herbs, putt into some drink which she drank but found noe benefit thirby; and not knowing ye said Alice, but taking her for one yt was desirous to receive ye Alms of good farmers, there was a lok of meale given her by ye old woman, & she then parted without further discourse either then or ever since; & will make oath thereof if required. This she professed to be ye whole truth before me. | Sam:Waleworth Archd^{ne}

(195.4) 26 February 1713

Feb.26.1712/13

Jane Curlet of Jurby sworn & examined, sayes, that She was sent by Margaret Goldsmith to Alice Cowley of Ballaugh to get a Charm in order to make Steven Tear Marry her; which she promised to do; & added, that if this Deponent desired the like to procure her a Husband, she would give it her for 9^d in Brass. And afterwards she was overpersuaded by the s^d Alice Cowley, Margaret Goldsmith, & one Joney Kneal, to give her an English shilling, for which the said Alice Cowley gave her a small peice of a coarse clout, & bid her keep it for the purpose affs^d, & upon opening it, she did not find any thing in it, & cast it away. And says further, that Joney Kneal told her, that the above Alice Cowley demanded 7^d from her to put into the Earth where she gathered some Herbs, to procure her a Husband, & that she used some Words at the plucking of the Herbs, which she taught the said Joney Kneal to this purpose—Phillip va Ree ny Shee, as Bahee er y Ven; as Yinnagh ee Brearey gys Jeeh, nagh beagh dy Bragh Lachal er Aig, ny shen. Goym y' ffyn firrinagh, as Juyldym vome yn Doo Yarbunagh, as goyms e', as bee e' aym, as cha beem dy bragh donna Jiar bunagh: with much more, which this Deponent cannot recollect. | Jane Curlet.

Apud KK Michael, Die & anno p^ddictis, | This Deposition was Taken in Court. | J:Woods.

(195.5) 26 February 1713

CURIA CORRECTIONIS

At KK Michael, ffeb.26.1712.

fforasmuch as it appears by several Depositions that Alice Cowley of Ballaugh has been guilty of (c.o. several Diabolical) many Wicked Practices, the Court has sworn the under-written jury, to try her for Witchcraft, & Sorcery; who are to return their verdict with all convenient Speed, that the said Alice Cowley may suffer such punishment as the nature of her wickedness demerits.

Juratorn noia:

W^m Curlet. | Philip Curlet. | Philip Curlet. | Jo: Corris. | Gilbt^t Tear. | Jo: Cowley.

(195.6) 26 February 1713

Wee the jury whose names are above written have seriously perrused and considered the annext Evidenies taken by the Spirituall Court and before us against Alice : Cowley of Ballaugh, By w^{ch} Evidenies it plainly appears to us that the said Alice: Cowley has practiced to goe through the Island, And has been Guilty of Many wicked & Evil practices (c.o. viz^t) in Charms & Sorcery and has been Guilty of Drawing or leading severall people to believe in her; by her wicked devices, which is a great Scandel to the Christian Religion, Therefore we doe leave the s^d Alice for her many Wicked and Evil practices affsd to the Mercy of the Court for fine & punishm^t And this we returne for our Answer as witness our names and Markes this 26th ffebr^y 1712

Wm Corlett | Philip Corlett | Gilbert Tear | phill Corlett my Mark X | Joⁿ Corris my Mark X | Joⁿ Cowley my Mark X

Die suprad. this verdict is delivered to & accepted at Bps Court, by us

Jo: Curgby | W^m Walker

(195.7) 26 February 1713

At Bishop's Court, ffēb.26 1712

Tho' the Jury have not indicted Alice Cowley of Ballaugh for practicing Charming & Sorcery, yet her wickedness is of a very heinous nature, & tends very much to the drawing People aside from a Trust in God, & Dependence on his good Providence. And seeing she is, by the said Jury, left to ffine & Punishment, w^{ch} she justly demerits, & w^{ch} the Church has full power to inflict, to make her, & all that see her, sensible, how far she has deviated from the wayes of God, & the Precepts of the Xtian Religion: We do order that she the s^d Alice Cowley be first comitted to St German's Prison, there to continue 30. Dayes, & before Releasement, to give in sufficient security to stand two Hours in a white Sheet, a white wand in her right hand, & these words [For Charming & Socery] in Capital Letters on her Breast, in the four Market=Towns of this Island, at the publick Cross, in the height of the Market; and Afterwards to do Penance in Ballaugh=Church, & there to renounce & declare her Abhorrence of, these Diabolical Practices for the time to come; which if she does after an humble & sincere manner, & if the Rector apprehend her to be serious, she may be received into the Church, & qualified to partake of the Holy Sacrament. If the Sumner be disobey'd, he is call for the Assistance of a Soldier from the next Garrison or ffort, & to receive sufficient Allowance for his trouble in seeing all this duly executed, of which he is return Certificate immediately after the Execution & Performance thereof. Dat ut suprà.

Tho: Sodor. & Man.

John Curghy | W^m Walker.

To the Sumner of Ballaugh, who is to See that this Criminal Stand at the Market=Cross of Peeltown, as before directed, on St Patrick's Day next. And the dayes for the other Towns are left to his own Discretion.

Mem^d: this Criminal is, beside the above Punishment, fined in 10^s ad Usum Dñi.

(195.8) 26 February 1713

At Bishop's Court, Feb.26.1712

Forasmuch as Isabel Gawn of Peeltown has been guilty of several ill Practices in Charming, and in deluding the People who had Recourse to her upon that acct. She is to be committed 7. Dayes in St German's Prison, & before her Releasement, to give in good Security, to do penance in KK Michael, & Peel-Churches, where she is to express her hearty sorrow for this Sin, & openly renounce the Practice of it for the ffuture; of w^{ch} the Vicar & Church Wardens are to make Presentm^{ts} if she shall presume to persist in her Wickedness; that both she, & they who apply to her on yt account, may be punish'd with the utmost Severity & Rigour of the Law.

Tho. Sodor. & Man.

Joⁿ Curghy | W^m Walker

(195.9) 17 March 1713

Forasmuch as Alice Cowley of Ballaugh, & Isabel Gawn of Peel, have been found Guilty, upon the Oathes of several Persons, of Practicing Charms & Sorcery, And of Wandering about the Country, Deceiving the People and Drawing them from their Dependance upon God, to Trust in Vanity & Lies, For which Crimes they have been justly Censured by the Church. You are therefore Requir'd to give Notice thereof to Your Congregation, That none hereafter may Presume to Entertain, Encourage, Harbour or Consult the said Persons, or any other who shall Practice the Like Abominations, upon Pain of Incurring the Severest Ecclesiastical Censures & Of Being Fin'd in 3^{ll} to the Lord Of this Isle; & That the Church-Wardens, According to the Tenour of their Oathes, may be careful to Present all Persons who shall either Practise Such Wickedness, or make Application to them that do so. Dat. At Bishops Court, 17. March.1712.

Tho. Sodor. & Man

To the Reverend Mr Woods of K. Malieu, to be Communicated together with the following Letter, to the Vicar's, Curates & Chaplains of the SouthSide of this Isle. Of both w^{ch} they are hereby requir'd to take a fair copy

(195.10) 17 March 1713

My Bretheren

Upon making a strict Enquiry into the Practices & Cheates of the Persons before mentioned, we find that many People, not knowing or not considering the greatness of the Sin, have consulted these & such like Charmers, to the Scandal of their Position, & to the incrise of their own guilt. My earnest Desire therefore is, That you will not fail to take this Occasion of Representing unto your People, after as Plain a manner as may be, The Sin, & the Consequences of Seeking to their Wicked Deceivers.—That you make them Sensible that all charms, let the Words be Good or Bad, Intelligible, or meer Iargon, are of the Devil, with whom there is a Compact implied by the very Practice. That it is A Forsaking Of God, when we have most need to Fly to, & Trust in Him, viz. in time of Trouble & Distress. That it is the Greatest Folly to Expect, as it is the greatest Impudence to Promise Help without Gods Blessing.

Let not your People fancy, that these Practices are rather Foolish than Wicked. God has not taught us to think so; for Exod.34.36. is an Instance, amongst others, of Gods disproving such Charms, That Prohibition being Directed Against A Charm Used by the Heathen to procure Plenty. Besides, these Beginings may, if not timely discourag'd end in Down right Witchcraft.

In short, these Wicked Devices being Contrivances of the Devil, to draw Men off from Trusting in God, for Health, & Security, & Prosperity; we sh^d Endeavour that the very knowledge of them, if Possible, may be rooted out from Among us. That Our People may be Taught to look up to God, To Trust in His Goodness & Providence, To Fear none but Him. To beg His Blessing Upon their Labours, their Persons, their Goods & their Children, which will be their best security; lest God suffer such Mischeifes to befall them for their Infidelity, as they are Solicitous to Avoid. Which was the case of Saul, for 1. Chron.10.13. It is said expressly that He lost His Site For Consulting a Charmer.

These Considerations, & Whatever else You shall think proper to Say Upon this Occasion, to your Respective Congregations, I desire & Require you will do it Lords day, within One Month after a Copy of this comes to Your Hands, and as often afterwards as You shall see Occasion for so doing. And may the Blessing of God attend You & Your Labours. I am

Your affectionat Freind | and Brother

Tho. Sodor. & Man.

Bps Court | March 17.1712.

To My Bretheren The | Clergy of the Church | of Man.

Thos:

(195.11) 1713

To the Rt Rev^{td} ffather in God Thomas: Lord Bopp of this Isle &c

The humble petition of Alice : Cowley of Ballaugh

Sheweth

That yo^r peticon^r is Censured thirty days imprisonment & to stand in a White Sheett in all the Markett Towne Crosses in The Island in the time of Markett, And alsoe in tenn shillings fine, ffor being Guilty of practizing Charmes & Soscery, Unto w^{ch} Censure yo^r peticoner has Submitted and being now fourteen dayes Confind in KK German prison humbly Craves yo^r LordShip She may be released from her Confindment and that upon her Standing in a White Sheet to Morrow and at The Cross of Peell on the height of the Markett, Your Lordship will be graciously pleased to Mittigate The rest This granted She as in duty bound Ever pray &c

(195.12) March 1713

The Petitioner above nam'd may be set at liberty after she has given sufficient Security to Perform Her Censures at the Times & Places which shall be Appointed hereafter, And after she has given Bonds of 3^l in Usum Domini, never to Practice Charms or Sorcery for the future, Dat. At Bp Court March · 1712.

Tho. Sodor. & Man

To Captⁿ Jo. Stevenson | Constable of Peel Castle.

(195.13) 17 March 1713

Know all Then by these psent, yt I William Caine of Ballaugh and William: Kelley of KK Lonin, doe hereby binde our selves in three pound ffine to ye Rt Honable Lord of this Isle yt Alice : Cowley of Ballaugh Shall pforme her Church Censure and Never here after to Practice any Charmes and Sorcery hereafter as Wittness our hands this this 17 day of March 1712

W^m Caine my Mark C | W^m Kelley my Mark K

Before me | Joⁿ Stevenson