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THE HISTORIE
 of Frier Rvsh: how he came to a
 house of Religion to seeke seruice, and being
 entertained by the Priour, was first made
 vnder Cooke.

Being full of pleasant mirth and delight
 for young people.



Imprinted at London by *Edw. All-de*, dwelling
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THE HISTORY
OF THE
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BY
MORRIS



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1810.



¶ A pleasant History, how a Deuill
 (named Rush) came to a Religious
 house, to seeke a seruice.

THERE was sometime beyond the Sea edified and
 founded a certaine house and Cloister of Religious
 men, which house was founded at a great Forrests side,
 for to maintaine the seruice of almighty God, and daily
 to pray for their benefactors and founders, and for the
 saluation of their owne soules: which place by reason
 of their founders and well disposed people (which gaue
 vnto it largely of their goods and possessions) increased
 in riches, and euery man had gold and siluer at their
 will, and also of meate and drinke they had great plenty:
 in so much that they were so well at ease and had so
 much, that they wist not what to doe they were so full
 of wantonneffe, whereby the seruice of almighty God
 was not well maintained among them: for oftentimes
 they said neither Mattins nor Euenfong: and through
 their great negligence they forgat cleane the charge that
 they were bound to when they entred into their Reli-
 gion, and they liued more like beasts without reason,
 then like men of good and holy conuersation: for they
 haunted harlots and liued viciously, and the goods that
 was giuen them by good and well disposed people, they
 spent in vnthriftincesse and rybauldry. And when the
 great Prince of Deuils which are the Patrones of all
 vices

Theye 22 Aug. 34 2, 32

vices vnderstood of the great misrule and vile liuing of these Religious men: consulted to keepe them still in that state, and worse if it might be. And these be the names of the Deuils.

Belphegor who was Prince of Gluttony, *Asmodeus* Prince of Lechery, And *Belzebub* Prince of Enuie, with many other Diuels assembled together, which reioyced for the misorder of these Religious men. And as they were all assembled together with one accord: they chose a Diuell to goe and dwell among these Religious men, for to maintaine them the longer in their vngracious liuing, which Diuell was put in rayment like an earthly creature, and went to a Religious house, and there he stood at the gate a certaine space all alone with an heauie countenance. Then within a while after the Priour came vnto the gate and espied *Rus* the young man standing there all alone. Anon he said vnto him, what dost thou here, and what wouldest thou haue. The young man with great reuerence answered and said: Sir, I am a poore young man, and am out of seruice, and faine would haue a Maister. And Sir if it please you to haue me, I shall doe you diligent seruice, and shall doe so well that you and all your brethren and couent shall be glad of me, for I shall keepe so well your secrets, that I trust to obtaine at all times your good loue and fauour, and all theirs also.

And when the Priour had heard his words, he was moued with pittie, and said: Goe into the Kitchin to the Cooke, and shew him that I haue sent thee thither, and bid him shew thee what thou shalt doe: for thou shalt be with him a certaine season, till that some other better thing fall. Then the young man made his reuerence to the Priour, and thanked him, and fourth he went to the Kitchin, where hee found the
maister

maister Cooke. Anon he made reuerence vnto him, and said: Sir, my Maister the Priour hath sent me hither vnto you, and he commaundeth you to shew me what I shall doe, for I must be here and helpe you. The maister Cooke answered and said, you be welcome. And anon hee set him to such businesse as he had to doe. And thus the Deuill became vnder-Cooke in the place that he was assigned vnto, by the Prince of Deuils. And then hee said (laughing to himselfe) as followeth.

These being the words of the Deuill.

I Am right glad that my purpose is come so well to passe, for now all mine intent is fulfilled, and I doubt not but all shall be ours: for I shall make such debate and strife among the Friers, that they shall neuer be at concord and peace. And I shall make them good staues wherewith the one shall beate well the other: and often times they shal lye together by the eares, in so much that there was neuer seen nor heard tell of such a rumour and discord in no Cloyster in the world. And I shall vse my selfe so, that I shall be in great loue and fauour among them.

Then within foure or fiew dayes after, it fortuneth that the Priour came into the Kitchin, and there he found the young man, to whom he said, where wast thou borne, and what is thy name? The young man answered and said, Sir, I was borne very farre hence, and *Rush* is my name. Then said the Priour vnto him, *Rush*, canst thou couple Hounds together? Yea Sir (said *Rush*) that I can doe right well, and more then that, for I can couple men and women together, which is a more mastrie, and also Sir (if neede be) I can conuay a faire woman into your chamber, and conuay her

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home

home againe in the morning fo secretly, that no man shall fpye it. And alfo I shall keepe your counsaile fo secretly, that it shall neuer be knowne. And when the Priour heard *Rufb* fpeake fo, he was right glad of him, and faid: *Rufb*, if thou canft doe as thou haft faid? I shall reward thee well for thy labour, and thou shalt be my moft welbeloued feruant: wherefore make an end of thy bufineffe, for foone thou shalt goe a little way on a meffage for me, and fo he departed and went to fupper. And when euery man had fupped, and *Rufb* had done all his bufineffe in the Kitchin, hee came vnto his maifter the Priour, and faid, Sir, what is your will with me? the Priour answered and faid: here a little befide dwelleth a faire Gentlewoman, the which I loue very well, but I dare not difcouer my minde vnto her my felfe: and if thou canft finde the meanes to bring her secretly vnto me, I shall reward thee right well for thy labour and paine. And when *Rufb* had heard the words of his Maifter, and knew all his minde, he answered and faid: Sir, be of good cheere, and let mee alone with that matter: for I shall goe vnto the Gentlewomans houfe, and I shall fay your meffage fo well, that this night shee shall come to you: and fo departed *Rufb* from his Maifter, and went ftraight vnto this Gentlewomans houfe. And when he was thither come, hee found the Gentlewoman fitting all alone. And when *Rufb* was efpied of her, he made vnto her great courtesie, and with many reuerences thefe words he faid.

How

How a Deuill named *Russh* came vnto a Gentlewomans house, and how he brought her priuily vnto his Maisters chamber.

REst you merry faire Mistresse, the most fairest creature in the world. My Maister greeteth you by me, desiring you to come and speake with him. Then said the Gentlewoman to *Russh*, who is your Maister, and what is his will with me? faire Mistresse, said *Russh*, I will shew you, my Maister is the Priour in a house of Religion here beside, and he loueth you so well except that you come vnto him this night, I know he will be dead for forrow.

Here followeth the answere of the Gentlewoman.

ANd when the Gentlewoman had heard the words of *Russh*, shee answered and said, Faire Sir, it were great pittie that the Gentleman should die for my sake, and rather then he should so doe for me, I will come to him, and shew him all the courtesie that I can. *Russh* was very glad of those comfortable words, and thought that his enterprife was well brought to passe, and he said vnto her: Faire Mistresse, may it please you to take the labour and goe with me, and I shall bring you to my Maister, and as I suppose, hee will make you good cheare, and Gold and Siluer you shall lacke none, for hee hath great plenty thereof. Then saide the Gentlewoman, Sir, I pray you let vs depart hence: for as I suppose the Gentleman looketh long for vs. So forth they went both together, till they came to the Priours Chamber. And when the Priour sawe that she was come: he was the gladdest man in the world, and thanked *Russh* much for his labour and paine: And so the Priour receiued her.

her into his chamber, and there he made her good cheere, and they had good meate and wine great plenty. And when they had well refreshed themfelues, *Rufb* departed, and went to the Kitchin, and left the Priour and the Gentlewoman alone, and there ſhe ſaued the Priours life. And when *Rufb* was in the Kitchin, hee ſaid vnto himſelfe: I am right glad that I haue brought this matter ſo well to paſſe: and I doubt not but they will agree well enough together, for they be both of one accord. And when the other Friers perceiued that *Rufb* was ſuch a priuie fellow, and ſo well could keepe counſaile: they deſired him to helpe them alſo, and ſo he did: for he brought to euery man, the woman that they moſt deſired, whereof they had great meruaile. But they were ſo blinded with ignorance, that they neuer perceived that he was a very Deuill, but euery man had him in loue and fauour.

How Frier *Rufb* threw the maifter Cooke into a kettell of water ſeething vpon the fire, wherein he died.

IT befell vpon a day that *Rufb* went forth to ſport him, and it was very late ere he came home againe, and the maifter Cooke was very angry with him that hee was ſo long abſent. And as ſoone as *Rufb* was entred into the Kitchin: the Cooke began to chide, and ſaid vnto him, thou horſon knaue where haſt thou bene ſo long: and with a great ſtaffe hee laid vpon *Rufb* and beat him fore. And when *Rufb* ſaw that the Cooke was angry, and ſo farre out of reaſon, and that he had beaten him fore: anon he began to waxe very angry with the maifter Cooke, and ſaid vnto him: thou horſon villaine, why haſt thou beaten me thus: I will be reuenged on thee: and ſuddainly he caught him in
his

his armes, and threw him into a great kettell which was full of water seething vpon the fire, and said, Iye thou there in the Diuels name: for now thou shalt neither fight nor chide no more with me: and so *Rush* slew the Maister Cooke. Then when hee had so done, hee departed out of the Kitchin, and went to the next Towne to fetch the faire woman againe for his Maister: and in his absence certaine of the Friers came into the Kitchin to speake with *Rush*, but they found no body stirring therein, and some of them went to stand by the fires side, to tarie till *Rush* came in: for they thought he would not tarie long. And as they stood talking by the fires side, they spied a man in the Kettell seething vpon the fire. And anon they perceiued that it was the maister Cooke, whereof they were greatly abashed. And with that (crying out) they went vnto the Priour and shewed him that the maister Cooke had drowned himselfe in a Kettell seething vpon the fire in the Kitchin: for which tydings the Priour was right forric. And in the meane season *Rush* came home, and had conueyed the woman into his Maisters chamber. And anon the Friers shewed *Rush* of the great misfortune that was fallen on the Maister Cooke in the Kitchin, and he made as he had beene forric therefore, and had knowne nothing thereof, and he was in great loue and fauour with the Priour and all the Friers, that they mistrusted him nothing for that deede, and so there was no more mention of the Maister Cooke. Then the Priour commanded that *Rush* should be made Cooke, and all the Couent was right glad of that, and so he was himselfe also, for he thought his enterprises came well to passe after his minde, and as he would haue it. Thus *Rush* became Maister Cooke in the Kitchin, and dressed their meate meruailous well: for
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in the Lent, and in the Aduent, both Fridayes and alfo other dayes, he put Bacon into their pottage pot, the which made the pottage to fauour well, and he dressed their meate fo delicioufly, that the Priour and all the Friers had great meruaile that he did it fo well: in fo much that they faid he did much better then their other Maifter Cooke did, & that he was a more cunninger man in his occupation, and could doe much better in his office. Thus *Rufb* continued in that office the fpace of feauen yeares, and did right well, and euery man had him in loue and fauour. Then it fortunod vpon a day the Priour and his brethren were afsembled together in a generall counfaile, and as they flood talking together, the Priour remembred *Rufb*, and anon he faid vnto his brethren: Friends we haue here *Rufb* which is our Maifter Cooke in our Kitchin, and he is an olde feruant, and much diligent and true feruice he hath done to vs, and he hath continued among vs longer then any feruant that cuer wee had: wherefore me thinke it reafon, that hee were promoted into fome other office, and made a brother among vs. Then all the whole Couent with one voice faid they were content it fhould fo be. So the Priour fent for *Rufb*, and when he was come before him and all his brethren, the Priour faid, *Rufb* it is fo, thou haft beene here a long feafon, and we haue found thee hitherto a true and diligent feruant, wherefore wee will that thou be promoted, and take vpon thee an habite as we haue, and to become a brother among vs. *Rufb* answered and faid: my Maifters I thanke you all, and then the Priour gaue *Rufb* an habite, and put it on his backe, and fo *Rufb* became a brother in the place, neuertheleffe he kept his office ftill.

How

How Frier *Russh* made Truncheons for the Friers to fight withall.

WHen *Russh* had on the habite of a Frier, and was a brother in the place, he had more vacation dayes then he had before. And as a King or a great Prince prepareth ordinances against their warres, in likewise did Frier *Russh*: for when all his businesse was done in the Kitchin, and that he had leysure, he went and fate in the Port of the vtter gate, and there he was making of good bigge Truncheons of Oke. And he made them with Hilts ouer the hand for slipping, of the which the other Friers had great meruaile, & demanded of him wherefore he made those Truncheons. *Russh* answered and said: Faire Sirs, I make them for this intent: that if there come any theecues hither for to rob vs, and to spoile our place, yet shall we haue weapons to defend vs withall. And therefore I make them. And moreouer, when any neede shall be, come to mee and euery man shall haue one, and they shall be ready at your comandement, and then the Friers thanked him and so departed. Then it fortun'd vpon a day, that the Priour and Subpriour fell at discord, and were greuously angry, the one with the other, and would haue fought together, but onely for shame: neuerthelesse, the anger abode still in their hearts, and all was for an harlot within a while after, the noyse spread abroad among the Friers, that the Priour and the Subpriour were fallen at discord, for the which they were angry in their mindes. And they that loued the Priour, tooke his part, and they that loued the Subpriour, tooke his part, and so they murmured among themselues. Then they appointed in their mindes to reuenge their quarrels at one

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time

time or other, and so to make a more surer way in fulfilling their malicious mindes and angry hearts, euery man after other went priuately to Frier *Rus* to lend them staues, in so much that there was not a Frier in the place but he had one, and they neuer went without their staues vnder their habite, and the one knew not that the other had any, they kept them so secretly. And when Frier *Rus* had deliuered all his staues, he was right glad in his heart, for he knew right well there should be a great fray among them, either one time or other. So it fortun'd afterward, as it is a common custome among Religious people at an high feast, to keepe solemne seruice, and euery man to be at Mattens at midnight, and so vpon a good night, all the whole Couent assembled together in the Quier, and were ready to begin Mattens, they taried for nothing but for the comming of the Priour. Then anon the Priour came into the Quier, and fate him downe in his place, and as he looked about him, he espied that the Subpriour was there present, and with that his heart began to grudge of the olde anger that was fallen betweene them two, and he thought in his minde that he could neuer be reuenged in a better time, and sodainly he rose out of his place, and went to the Subpriour, and with his fist he gaue him a good buffet, and the Subpriour which was moued with the stroke, started vnto the Priour and gaue him another buffet, and with that they went freshly together by the eares, and when the other Friers saw that, euery man rose out of their places, and drew out their Truncheons, and together they went: who had been there should have seene good buffets giuen on both parties. And when Frier *Rus* saw that they were fighting together, anon he blew out all the Candles and Lamps that were burning in the Church, and left no manner

manner of light therein whereby the one might see the other: and when he had so done, he tooke his Truncheon in his hand, and went into the Quier among the thickest of the Friers the which were fighting freshly without light, and there he laid so lustily about, that many of them he felled to the ground, and left them there for dead, and when he had so done, he stole his way from them, and as hee went, he found standing in the portall of the Quier, a great olde Deske, and anon hee tooke the Deske betweene both his hands, and threw it ouer the portall into the Quier among all the Friers, and hurt many fore, in so much that some had an arme broken, and some a legge, and other some had their noses cleane pared from their faces, that the blood ranne in their mouthes, and as for broken heads to the hard scalpe were no dainty, for euery man had one, there scaped none free away, who had been there, should haue had a goodly pastime to see the Friers creepe about the Quier, and in steede of (*Domine labia*) they cried out alas and well away. Then when the fray was done, and all the noyse ceased, *Rush* came in among them with a Candell light in his hand, and made as he had knowne nothing thereof, and said to them: Fie for shame Sirs, how fortun'd this discord to fall among your selues? I see well now you regard not your honour, nor the good name of your place. All the people shall say ye be not honest, nor good religious men, the which words I would be loath to heare, and I may not suffer our place so to fall in an euill name: wherefore good Masters, I require you to set your hearts at rest, and put the matter into my hands, and I shall doe so much that all shall be well, and you shal be good friends againe, and no words shall be spoken thereof, then euery man complained to him of their great hurt, and he made semblance as he

had been sorie therefore and then they that could goe, went up to their Sels, and they that could not goe, did creepe vp as well as they could, and laid them downe in their beds, and there they lay till they were whole againe, and in the space of three weekes and more, God was euill seruued, for in all that space they sung neither Mattins nor Euensong, nor neuer entred into the Church for it was suspended, and for shame they durst neuer let it be knownc. And when they were all whole, and euery man vpon his feete againe, and might goe about the house, they brought againe their staues to Frier *Rus*, and thanked him much, and then Frier *Rus* said vnto them: Sirs when ye haue neede of them againe, ye shall finde them here ready at your commandement, for which they gaue him thanks, and departed. When Frier *Rus* saw that they were gone, and that he had all his staues againe, he laughed vnto himself and said: I am right joyfull that mine enterprises be come so well to passe, for I haue done many mischicuous deeds since I came first, and yet I will doe more before I depart hence, for I shall cause them to be damned, and I shall bring their bodies and soules into the burning fire of hell, there to remaine world without end, and of me shall be spoken a thousand yeeres hereafter.

How Frier *Rus* grymed the Waggon with Tarre, and what cheare he made in the Country.

A Nother time it fortun'd that the Priour had a iourney to ride into the Country about a little businesse that hee had there to doe, and anon he called *Rus* his seruant vnto him and said, *Rus* goe thy way into the Court, and take with thee a dish full of greace, and greace well the wheeles and Axeltrees of the Waggon, and

and make all things ready against to morrow in the morning, for I must ride forth to-morrow betimes, then *Russh* departed from his Maister, and went about his businesse, and in steed of greace, hee tooke a great vessell full of Tarre, and anointed the Waggon all ouer with it, both within and without, and especially in the place where the Priour should sit: and when he had done, he returned to his Maisters chamber, then the Priour demanded of *Russh*, if he had done as he commanded him: yea Sir said *Russh*, ye may ride when please you, and so they went to their beds. Then on the morrow after, the Priour and *Russh* his seruant with his other company, rose vp very early in the morning for to accomplish their iourney, and forth they went vnto their Waggon, and when the Priour was entred therein, hee perceiued himselfe all to berayed and smeared, and all his clothes were filed therewith: and then he said to *Russh*, thou lewd fellow, what hast thou done to this Waggon that I am thus arayed therein? *Russh* answered and said: Sir, I have done nothing but as you commanded me. That is not so said the Priour, for I commaunded thee to take greace and greafe but the wheelles and the Axeltrees, and thou hast taken Tarre and annointed it all ouer, both within and without. Why hast thou done so? Sir said *Russh*, I vnderstoode you bad me doe so. And when the Priour sawe there was no other remedie, he commanded his seruants to make ready another Waggon, and in the meane season, the Priour went into his Chamber, and put on another habite, and came againe and mounted into the Waggon and went their way, and so long they rode, that they came to their iourneys end. And when they were alighted at their lodging, the Priour called for his supper, and anon euery thing was made ready, and the good man of the house and
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the Priour fate downe to supper together, and made good cheere and then the Priour called for wine of the best, and anon he had his commandement. And when the good man of the house and the Priour had supped, *Ruslb* and his fellowes fate downe to the reuerfions that their Maisters had left, but they had no wine: wherefore *Ruslb* was very sad, and euer he mused by what policie he might get some wine. And anon he called the wife of the house and said: Mistresse, I pray you fill a pottle of wine for me and my fellowes, and so shee did: and when that was gone, they called for another: and then they called for the third, and so ended their supper. Then on the morrow when the Priour had done all his businesse, and was ready to returne home againe: he called for a reckoning. And anon, the good wife came in and gaue him a reckoning of all things, both horse meate and mans meate; and at last, she reckoned three pottels of wine that *Ruslb* and his fellowes had. And when the Priour heard that his seruants had drunke so much wine: Anon he began to waxe very angry, and asked her, who commanded her to fill in so much wine? the wife answered and said: Sir, *Ruslb* your seruant commaunded me to fill it in, and he said that you should pay therefore. Then anon the Priour called for *Ruslb*, and said vnto him: Thou lewd Knaue, why hast thou drunke so much wine? Might no lesse then pottels serue thee and thy fellowes? Sir, said *Ruslb*, we haue not drunke so much, for your horses hath had two of the pottels. My horses, said the Priour: what should they do with wine? Yes Sir, said *Ruslb*, your horses laboured forer than we did, and were very weary, and they had nothing but Hay and Oates: wherefore, me thought it needefull to giue them some good drinke to their course meate to comfort their hearts withall, and to cause them

to

to be the lustier, and to haue the better courage to bring you homeward. And when the Priour had heard that answere of *Rusb*, and saw there was no remedy but patience: he paid for the wine, and all things that he had taken there, and so rode home in his Waggon, and Frier *Rusb* neuer went forth againe with his Master.

How the Priour made Frier *Rusb* Sexton among the Friers, and how he charged him to giue him knowledge how many Friers were absent from Mattins at midnight, and what they were.

WHEN the Prior was come home, hee made Frier *Rusb* Sexton of the Church, and his office was to ring the bell and to light the candles, and to cal the Friers to Mattins at mid-night, and also the Prior commaunded *Rusb* & charged him, that he should take good heede that there were none of the Friers absent from Mattins, and if there were to giue him knowledge thereof, then saide *Rusb* to his master: Sir all your commaundement shalbe fulfilled, and so they departed. And within three or foure nights after, *Rusb* espied certaine of the Friers that were absent, and he marked them well, and on the morrow after he presented them to the Prior, and anon the Prior caused them to come before him, and gaue them a check, for their being absent; in a little time, *Rusb* had presented them all which caused the Prior to be greatly offended with them: when they perceiued that *Rusb* had made such complaints against them, they had him in much disdain, but they could not amend it: for hee had them in such great feare, that neuer after they durst be absent, but well

well was hee that might be first in the Quier. When *Ruslb* perceiued the Fryers had him in so great feare, he deuised to doe some mischieuous thing among them; and vpon a night, a little before he should ring to Martins, he went and brake downe the staires of the Dorter, and when he had so done, hee went and rung to Martins, and lighted the Lamps & Candles in the Church, and went into the Dorter, and called vp the Fryers, and so came and sate at the staires foote as he was wont to doe; he had sitten there but a while, but anon there came one, who thought no hurt but to goe soberly into the Quier as he was wont to doe, and when he came to the staires downe he fell, and had a meruailous great fall: then said *Ruslb*, thou art one. Presently there came another, and likewise downe he fell and had a fore fall, thou art two, said *Ruslb*. Anon came the third Frier, which had a mightie great bellie, and was a grosse man, and he made great hast, for he feared that he should haue been last, & when he came to the staires, downe he fell on his fellowes necks, and he was so great and so heauie, that almost he had mischieued his fellowes that lay vnder him: thou makest three said *Ruslb*. And with that there came seauen or eight together, and downe they fell all at once. Softly masters for shame, said *Ruslb*, ye come too many at once, ye were not wont to be so hastie, but now I perceiue well ye would deceiue me, and one would excuse the other, and therefore ye come so thicke to blind me in my tale: How should I now giue account to the Prior of them that be absent? Surely I cannot tell, but now I see well, ye be too subtil for me, I would some other man had mine office, and made as though he had beene verie angrie with them. Then the Fryers, such as could goe, though it were to their paines, rose vp againe, and limping

limping went into the Quier, and they that fell first and lay vnder, were sore hurt and could not goe, and specially the Frier with the great belly: yet neuertheless, they crept into the Quier, as well as they could. And when they were all assembled together in the Quier, each of them complained to other of their great hurts, and so they began Mattins: who had beene there, should haue heard a heauie song and a sad, for they were not merrie in their hearts, their paines were so great. When Mattins was done, they that could goe, went vp againe into their lodgings, and they that could not goe, lay still in the Quier all night: On the morrow, word was brought to the Prior of the great misfortune that was fallen among the Friers at midnight: for the which misfortune the Prior was greatly displeas'd and angry in his minde, & thought verily it was *Russhes* deede, for hee had done diuers euill turnes before. Then the Prior sent for *Russh* to come speake with him, and when he was come, Prior said vnto *Russh*, how fell this misfortune to night among the Friers, that they be so sore hurt? Sir said *Russh*, I shall shew you, it is not vnknowne vnto you, that when you put me first into this office, ye commaunded me to giue you knowledge when any of my brethren were absent from Mattins, and so haue I done diuers times, whereby many of them haue beene shent and chidden by you, and for that cause, they owe me euill will, and faine would haue me out of this office, if they wist how. And for to accomplish their desire, and to cause you to be displeas'd with mee: I shall shew you what they haue done this night. Sir it is so, that when the time was come, I rung to Mattins and lighted candles, and made all things readie, and when I had so done I went into the Dorter to euery mans Sell and called them vp, then I went and stoode at the staire

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foot,

foot, for to tell them as they came downe, as I was accustomed to doe, and to knowe who came to Mattins; and who did not, and for spite that I should not reckon them, they came all on a cluster, and for hast the one thrust the other downe the staires, and he that had the greatest belly, had the hardest fall; now if they hurt themselues, what might I doe with all? And when the Prior had heard the words of *Rusfb*, he wist not what to say, but for to voyde all tribulations and misfortunes that might fall in time to come, he put *Rusfb* out of his office, and set him in the Kitchin againe, and when he was there all alone, he laughed to himselfe and said: this enterprise is well brought to passe, and I haue made a good scuse thereof to the Prior, yet will I doe more ere I depart out of this place.

How *Rusfb* went forth a sporting, and was late forth, and how in his way comming home, he found a Cowe, which Cowe he deuided into two parts, the one halfe hee tooke on his necke and caried it with him, and the other halfe he left still: and how soone he had made it ready for the Friers suppers.

IT befell vpon a time that *Rusfb* when all his businesse was done in the Kitchin, he would goe forth into the Countrey to sport him and to passe the time with good company: as hee walked on his way, his chaunce was to come into a village, which was two or three mile from the place where hee did dwell, and when hee was entred into the village, hee looked round about him in euery corner to finde out some company to make merrie withall: and at the last, espied an Alehouse, and in he entred, and there hee found good fellowes playing
at

at Cardes, and drinking, and made cheare: then *Russh* made obeyfance to them, and fate downe among them, and dranke with the players, and afterward he fell to play, and was as merrie as any man in the company: and fo long he played and paffed the time, that cleane hee had forgotten what he had to doe at home, and the day went faft away, and the night approached. Anon *Russh* looked vp and perceiued that it was almoft night, remembered himfelfe that there was nothing readie at home for the Priors fupper and Couent, and it was almoft fupper time, wherefore he thought it was time to depart thence, fo he payed for his drinke and tooke his leaue, and homeward he went, and in his way he found a fat Cowe grasing in the field, and fodainly he deuided her into two parts, and the one halfe he left lying there ftill, and the other halfe he tooke on his necke and carried it home, and quickly hee made it ready; fome he put in the pot, and fome vpon the spit, and he made a great fire and fet on the pot, and layd to the spit: and he made meruailous good pottage, and rofted the meate very well, and he made fuch fpeede, that euery thing was ready by the houre accustomed to goe to fupper, whereof the Prior and all the Friers had great meruaile, that he had made euery thing readie fo loone, and was fo well done: for they knew that it was late ere he came home: for fome of the Friers had beene in the Kitchin a little before, and faw neither Cooke nor fire, nor any thing prepared toward fupper: wherefore they gaue great praife to *Russh*, and faid he was very quicke in his office.

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How

How a Farmer of the Priors fought his Cowe, and how he was desolated by the way homeward, and was faine to lye in a hollow Tree: and of the vision that he had.

THere was a poore husbandman, dwelling there beside, which was a Farmer of the Priors: the which poore man had a Cowe abroad in the fields, that was accustomed euery night to come home at a certaine houre, and neuer failed. And at the last a mischaunce fell vnto her, for Frier *Rufb* had slaine her as she stode in the field, and so shee failed of her comming home at her houre as shee was woont to doe. And when the poore man sawe that his Cowe came not home: he thought in his minde it was not well with her, so fourth he went in an euening for to seeke his Cowe, and so long he trauailed about in the fields, that at the last hee found the one halfe of his Cowe lying there: but the other halfe was cleane gone, and shee was so cleanly deuided in two parts, that hee imagined in his minde, that it was not possible to be done by mans hands, for if any wilde beasts had done it, they would haue spoyled the flesh: so hee returned homeward againe, and ere hee came at the halfe way, the night was so darke that he could not see which way he went, and so hee went out of his way, and house could he finde none: and at the last he came to an hollow tree wherein he fate him downe, thinking there to take his rest all night, and he had not sitten there but a while: but anon there assembled a company of Deuils, and among them they had a great principall Maister whose name was *Lucifer*, and he was the first that spake: and the first that was called, was a Deuill him:

named *Belzabub*, and with a loud voyce, he said vnto him: *Belzabub* what hast thou done for vs? *Belzabub* answered and said: Sir I haue caused debate and strife to fall betweene brother and brother, insomuch the one hath slaine the other: that is well done said the maister Deuill, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then fourth he called another Deuill, named *Incubus*, and demaunded of him what he had done? Sir said *Incubus*, I haue caused great debate and strife, to fall betweene two Lords, through the which they haue had great warres, and many men haue beene slaine: then said the maister Deuill, thou art a true seruant to vs, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy great labour and paine. Then said the great maister vnto another Deuill, named *Norpell*, what hast thou done for vs? Sir said *Norpell*, I haue beene among players at the Dice and Cardes, and I haue caused them to sweare many great oathes, and the one to flea the other: and also I haue caused debate and strife to fall betweene man and wife, and caused the wife to cut her husband's throat: that was well done said the Master, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then fourth came another Deuill named *Downefnest*, and said: Sir I haue caused two olde women to fight so fore together, and to beat each other about the head, that their eyes flew out: that was well done said the master Deuill, with much thanke thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then fourth went Frier *Russh* freshly, and with a good courage, and said: Sir, I am in a Religious place, and I gouerne the Priour and his Couent as I will myselfe, and they haue me in great loue and fauour: for I doe them many great pleasures, and I haue brought them faire wenches euery man one when they lust, and diuerstimes I haue caused debate and strife to fall among them, and I haue made them staues and
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caused them to fight ftiffly together, and to breake each others head, and their armes and legges, and yet will I doe more among them ere I depart out of the place, for I shall make fo great debate and strife among them, and the one shall flea the other, then they shall come and dwell with vs in Hell, and burne in perpetuall fire without end. Then said the maifter Deuill to *Rufb*: if thou haue done as thou haft said, thou haft done well thy part, and I pray thee be diligent thy selfe about thy businesse, and stirre them to fin, and fpecially to these three, that is to say, Wrath, Gluttony, and Lechery, and briefly to make an end of thy enterprife, and slip it not: and when thou haft done, come home, and thou shalt be highly exalted and well rewarded for thy great labour and paine. When *Rufb* had tolde his tale: the great maifter Deuill commanded euery Deuill to goe his way and doe the best he could, and thus they departed: some went one way and some another: and thus they were scattered abroad in the world, to finish and make an end of their enterprifes that they had taken in hand. And when the poore husbandman which fate in the Tree, sawe that all the Deuils were departed and gone: he reioyced in his heart and was right glad thereof, for as long as they were there, hee was euer in great feare and dread, and hee was afraid that they should haue seene him there, and euer he prayed vnto almighty God to be his guard, and saue him from that foule and euill fauoured company of Deuils, and to fend him the light of the day that he were gone out of that place, for hee was weary that hee aboade there so long, and oftentimes he looked vp, to see if hee could perceiue any light of the day whereby he might see to depart thence, for till then he durst not once stirre out of that place, for he feared that they had beene there still. Then within
a while

a while after, the day began to appeare, and when hee perceiued that: anon he started vp and looked round about him abroade in the fields, and when he perceiued that there was nobody stirring he thanked almighty God, that he was so preferued out of that great ieopardy, and so departed.

How the Farmer which lay in the Tree, came vnto the Priour on the morowe after, and tolde him the words that hee had heard, and the words of Frier *Russh*, and that he was a very Deuill.

AS soone as the day began to apcare: the poore Farmer arose out of the Tree, and tooke his way streight to the Priour, and he would neuer rest till he had spoken with him; and when he was come to his speech, anon he saide: Sir, this night hath fortun'd to me a great aduventure: how so saide the Priour? sir, yesternight late in the evening, I walked foorth in the fieldes to seeke a Cowe which I haue missed this foure or fise dayes, and so long I wandered abroad, till at the last I founde the one halfe of my Cowe, but the other halfe was gone; and as I woulde haue returned home againe, I was benighted, so fore that I lost my waye: then I wist not whether to goe, but spying a hollowe Tree, I fate me downe, thinking there to take my rest till the day appered againe: and I had not fitten there but a while, but instantly there was assembled a great company of Deuills which made a maruailous great noise, whereof I was fore afrayd. They had among them a great master named *Lucifer*, who called all the rest to make a reckoning of all their seruice they had done, since they departed out of Hell: there I heard many

many marueilous tales. At the last, fourth came Frier *Ruslb*, then saide the great master *Lucifer* vnto him, *Ruslb*, what hast thou done since thou departed out of Hell? and he answered, that he had ruled you, and all your Couent, and caused you, to chide and fight, and were neuer in vnitie and peace among your selues: and he said he had caused you to liue viciously, and yet he saide he would doe more ere he departed out of this place, for he will cause you to kill each other, and then you should be damned in Hell, both bodie and soule. And so euerie Deuill departed and went about their busines. Wherefore take heede, for he is a verie Deuill. And when the Priour had heard the wordes of the Farmer, he thanked him for his labor and so they departed, the Farmer went home to his house, but the Priour was marueilously abashed at the words of the Farmer, and went into his chamber and was much grieued in his harte that he had so leudly misordered himselfe against his Lord God, and with great contrition he kneeled downe vpon his knees, and asked almighty God mercie, and forgiuenes for the great and greeuous offences that he had committed and done against him, and that he had so vildly misused the order of his Religion. And when he had thus done, he departed out of his chamber and went into the Cloister, and caused all his bretheren to come together, and when they were all assembled, the Priour told them euerie worde as the husbandman had told him, and that *Ruslb* was a verie Deuill, and no earthly creature; at the which they were sore astonished, and were right sorry in their hartes, that they had followed him so much in his minde, and done after his counsaile, and were heauy in their heartes for their great and abominable finnes that they had committed and done, & with great contrition they kneeled downe vpon their

their knees, and desired almighty God, for grace and pardon. Then the Priour caused euery man to fall to contemplation and praier. Then fourth they went and did the Priours commaundement, and briefly made them ready, and went to prayer all at once. And when they were come to the middest of their seruice, the Priour departed out of the Church and went to the Kitchin, wherin he found *Russh* who was there verie busy: then the priour commaunded him to stand still, and by vertue of almightie God and of all the companie of Heauen, he coniured *Russh* into the likenes of a Horfe, and commaunded him to goe and stand at the gate in the same place that he stood in when he came thether first, and to stand there till seruice was done: so fourth went *Russh* in the likenes of a Horfe, and stood at the gate as the Priour had commaunded him. And when seruice was done, the Priour and his brethren went to the gate to see what case *Russh* was in: and when they were come thether they found him standing in the likenes of a Horfe. Then they demaunded him to what entent he came into their place, and why he taried there so long? Syrs said *Russh*: I came hither to cause you to do all mischife as is aforefaid, and yet I would haue done more ere I had gone hence: for I would haue caused you to slaye other, and to be damned both bodie and soule. And when they had heard the words of *Russh*, euery man held vp his hands and thanked almighty God, that they had so well escaped that great misfortune. Then *Russh* desired the Priour licence to depart thence, and promised that he would neuer more come there, nor doe any man more hurt: ypon that condition the Priour gaue him leaue to depart. Thus *Russh* departed from the place, and the Friers went to their
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Cloyster, and liued there solitarie and chaste euer after, and serued almightie God better than euer they did before.

The Lamentation that *Rusbe* made when hee was departed out of the house of Religion.

WHEN *Rusbe* was banished out of the house of Religion, and was turned into the same likenesse that he was, then he wandred abroad in the worlde with an heauie heart, & these words he said: Alas, alas, what shall I doe, I wote not now whether to goe, for all my seuen yeres labour is lost. And as he wandred about, by fortune he met with his master *Lucifer*, but he would not haue seene him by his will: neuertheles his maister espied him quickly, and said to him *Rusbe* what tydings with thee? Sir said *Rusbe*, I haue lost all my labour that I haue gone about this vii. years. How so, saide his Maister? Sir, I shall shew you said *Rusbe*. The last time that we were assembled together, there was a poore man lay in an old tree hard beside vs, & he heard all that we said: and when we were departed, he arose and went vnto the Priour and shewed him all that we saide, and specially the wordes that I had spoken, and so all my labour is lost, & am banished that place. Well, said the master Diuell to *Rusbe*, thou shalt goe some other way abrode, and looke if thou canst finde any thing to doe: Then *Rusbe* walked about in the country, & long it was ere he could get any seruice: At last he fortun'd to come vnto a husbandmans house which lacked a seruant, where he was entertained, but fore against the wifes consent. For this husbandmans wife
was

was a very faire woman, and she loued well the parish Priest, and he loved her againe, in so much that often times they made good cheere and banketted together, and so continued and kept company together a long time. Their meeting was so priue and so secrete, that it was neuer knowen, and they sure enough of the good man, for he was accustomed euerie morning to rise early and to goe farre into the field, and because his wife would preuent his comming home to dinner, she would alwaies giue him his victailes in a bagg with him, and a bottell full of drinke, to the intent he should tarie in the feeldes from morning to night: she would not suffer him to keepe a seruant or to haue any manner of helpe: for she was afraide that if they should haue a seruant, her secretes should be knowen, and the goodman also feared that if he should take a seruant, that he would haue but little lust to tarrie there: for the Deuill himselfe could not endure the chiding and brawling of that woman: by which meanes she kept her husband without a seruant a long time: For shee knew well, that as long as her husband was in the feeld, the Priest and she might haue their meeting, but at length shee was deceived.

How *Rush* came to a Husbandman (labouring in the Field) and desired to bee entertained into his seruice.

Rush traauiling vp and down, came to a Husbandman who was labouring in the field, being all alone, and spake these wordes vnto him: Rest you merie sir, me thinks you take great paines to worke so fore your selfe: will it please you to entertaine a seruant? I

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am a poore young man & am out of seruice, and I am very willing to serue you if you please; and I trust to doe you such seruice, as shall be to your good content; The husbandman answered him, and saide; young man, I would gladly giue you entertainment, but my wife will neuer be pleased with any seruant that shall come into my house: Sir said *Rusb* let me alone, for I shall so worke the matter, that my dame shall be well pleased with me: well said the husbandman, tarry with me till I haue done my busines, and thou shalt goe home with me: when he had finished his dayes worke, *Rusb* went home with him, they were no sooner come into the house, but the wife espying *Rusb*, she began to gloome and to looke meruailous angerly at him: which the good man perceiuing, he saide unto her, dame, I pray thee to be contented, thou knowest well enough that I haue more labour to doe, then I am able to make an end of alone, and therefore I haue hyred this young man to help me: when his wife heard those wordes, she was more angry then before, and began to braule and scolde as if the Deuill had bene in her, and said vnto him: what a vengeance needest thou to take a seruant? thou art able enough thy selfe to doe all the busines that we haue to doe, and why should we take more charge vpon vs then we are able to beare? but I now perceiue thou art giuen to lazines, and hast little minde to work thy selfe: when the good man heard her so highly displeased, he said, dame, I pray thee be contented, the young man is honest, and he hath promised me to be a good seruant: yet for all these speches she would not be pacified, but brawled still: when *Rusb* perceiued her great impacience, he said vnto her: dame I pray you be contented, and be not angry with me, for you shall haue no cause, my Master hath hyred me but for a while,
vpon

vpon a tryall, and I trust, in that time, so to behaue my selfe, as to giue you both content: and when my time commeth out, if you like my Seruice you shall haue it before any other whatsoeuer: if not, I will be very well content to depart. When the wife heard *Rush* speake so reſonably, she pacified her selfe, and said no more: which caused the good man to be very glad, and so she set them to supper, and as they sate at meate, *Rush* demanded of his Master what he should doe the next day? his Master answered, thou must rise early and goe to the field, and make an end of that which I was about this day; (which was a great dayes worke) so when they had supt they went to bed. Early in the morning *Rush* arose and went to the field, and wrought so lustily, that he had done his worke betimes: for when his Master came to bring him his Breakfast, all his worke was finished, wherewith his Master had great maruaile: then they sate downe to breakfast, which being ended they went home, and did such things as were there to be done: when his Dame sawe that he had so soone ended his busines, she thought that he was a profitable seruant, and said little but let him alone. In the Euening *Rush* demaunded of his Master what hee should doe the next morrow? his Master appointed him twice so much as hee did the day before, which *Rush* refused not, but got vp early in the morning, and went to the Field, and about his worke; so soone as his Master was ready, he tooke his mans breakfast and came to the field, thinking to helpe *Rush*: (but he was no sooner come from his house, but the Priest came to see his wife, and presently shee made ready some good meate for them to be merry withall, and whyle it was a dressing, they sate sporting together, who had beene there should haue seene many louing touches.) And when the goodman
came

came to the Field, he found that *Ruslb* had done all that which he appointed, whereof he had great maruaile: then they fate downe to breakfast, and as they fate together, *Ruslb* beheld his Masters shoone, and perceiued that for fault of greasing they were very hard: Then said *Ruslb* to his Master, why are not your shoes better greased, I maruaile that you can goe in them, they be so hard? Haue you no more at home? Yes, said his Master, I haue another payre lying vnder a great Chest at home in my chamber: Then said *Ruslb*, I will goe home and grease them that you may put them on to morrow: and so he walked homeward merrily and sung by the way. And when he approached neare the house, he sang out very loude: with that his Dame looked out at the window, and perceiued that it was her seruant, Shee said vnto the Priest: alas, what shall we doe? our seruant is come home, and my Husband will not be long after, and with that she thrust the meate into the Ouen, and all that was vpon the Table. Where shall I hyde me said the Priest? Goe into the chamber, and creepe vnder the great Chest among the olde shoone, and I shall couer you, and so he did: And when *Ruslb* was come into the house, his Dame asked him, why he came home so soone? *Ruslb* answered and said: I haue done all my busines, and my Master commaunded me to come home and grease his shoone. Then he went into the Chamber and looked vnder the Chest, and there hee found the Priest, and he tooke him by the heeles and drew him out, and said, thou whoreson Priest, what doost thou heere? With that, the Priest held vp his hands and cryed him mercy, and desired him to saue his honesty, and hee would neuer more come there: And so *Ruslb* let him goe for that once.

How

How *Russh* came home to make cleane the Stable, and how hee found the Priest vnder the Maunger couered with Straw.

Within a while after this foresaid Priest began to wax warme, and thought once againe to aduenture himselfe and goe to the Husbandmans house: When he perceiued that the Goodman and *Russh* his Seruant was in the field a labouring, hee went with all speed to the house, and when he was entered, the Wife said he was welcome, and made ready a good dish of meate and set it on the Table before the Priest, then shee drew drinke and fate downe beside him: who had beene there should haue seene many wanton toyes between them two, and they had not sitten there long, but anon *Russh* came singing homeward, and when she espyed him, she was abashed and wist not what to doe but thrust the meate into the Ouen as she did before. Then said the Priest where shall I hyde me? come with me, said the wife, into the Stable, and creepe vnder the Maunger, and I shall couer you with straw, and tary there till he be gone againe, and then she turned againe into the house where she found *Russh* her Seruant, and anon she demaunded of him why he came home so soone? *Russh* answered, that he had done all his busines, and he was come to make cleane the Stable, and when the Wife heard that, shee was sorry in her heart, for she doubted that he would finde the Priest againe. Then forth went *Russh* into the stable and tooke a great forke in his hand and began to shake vp the Straw: and when he came to the heape that the Priest lay in, the which seemed to him very great, yet neuerthelesse with his forke he took all vp at once and bare it out of the doore,

doore, and laide it on a great heape of mucke that lay there, and with his forke he fhaked the straw abroad, and when hee had fhaken out a little, anon he was aware of the Priests Gowne : then hee faid, what a Deuill art thou? and with his forke he turned the heape, and then hee perceiued that the Priefft was come againe : then with his forke he gaue him three or foure good dry ftripes and faid, whorefon Priefft, what doft thou heere? thou promifed me the laft day neuer more to come heere, and now I fee thou art a falfe Priefft, but now I fhall make an end of thee, and then fhalt thou neuer deceiue me more. And when the Priefft heard him fay fo, he fell vpon his knees and held vp his hands, and prayed *Rufb* to faue his honor once againe and he would neuer come there more, and if he did then to doe with him what he would.

Thus *Rufb* let the Priefft goe the fecond time.

How *Rufb* came home and found the Priefft in the Cheefe-basket, and how hee trayled him about the Towne.

THEN within a fortnight or three weekes after, the Priefft thought he was long absent from the Husbandmans wife. And though it should coft him his life, yet would he goe thither once againe : And on a day he perceiuing the goodman was gone to the Field, he tooke his waye vnto the houfe, and was fo hasty, that alfoone as he was entred into the houfe, hee caught the wife and would haue imbraced her, but fhee quickly got from him againe, and went and prepared good cheare for him, as fhe was wont to doe : for they thought themfelues fure enough for the time, but yet they

they were deceiued: For when the goodman was come to the Field, *Ruff* had done all his busines, then they fate downe, and brake their fast with Bread and Cheefe: and as they fate eating, *Ruff* spyed a hayre in the Cheefe, and then he said to his Master, I trow my Dame would poyson vs, or else she washeth not the Basket that the Cheefe lyeth in, behold it is all full of haire, I will goe home and wash the basket and make it cleane: so leauing his Master in the field and walking home-ward, he sung merrily all the way. And when he approached neare the house, the Wife knew his voyce and perceiued that he was comming. Then wringing her hands she said vnto the Priest, goe hyde you, or else you be but dead. Where shall I hyde me said the Priest? Goe vp into the chamber and leape iuto the basket that hangeth out at the window, and I shall call you when he is gone againe. Then anon in came *Ruff* and she asked him why he came home so soone? then said *Ruff*, I haue done all my busines in the field, and my Master hath sent me home to wash your Cheefe-basket, for it is full of haire, and so he went into the Chamber, and with his knife he cut the rope that the basket hung by, and downe fell Priest and all into a great poole of water that was vnder the window: then went he into the stable for a Horse and rode into the poole, and tooke the rope that hung at the basket, & tying it to the horses tayle, rode through the poole three or 4 times. Then he rode through the Towne to cause the people to wonder at him, and so came home againe. And all this while he made as though he had knowne nothing, but looking behinde him, espied the Priest. Then he alighted downe, and said vnto him: Thou shalt neuer more eescape me, thy life is lost. With that, the Priest held vp his hands and said, heere is a hundred

F

peeces

peeces of gold, take them and let me goe. So *Ruslb* tooke the golde and let the Priest goe. And when his Master came home, he gaue him the halfe of his money, and bad him farwell, for he would goe see the world.

How *Ruslb* became Seruant to a Gentleman, and how the Deuill was Coniured out of the body of the Gentlemans Daughter.

WHEN *Ruslb* was departed from the Husbandman, he went abroad in the Countrey, to looke if he could find any more aduentures: and so long he trauailed about, that at last he espyed a Gentlemans place, vnto the which he tooke his way. And when he was come thither, as chance was, he found the gentleman walking vp and down before his gate. And when *Ruslb* was approached neare vnto him, he put off his bonet and saluted him saying: Rest you merry good gentleman: Welcome said he: Sir, said *Ruslb*, I am a poore young man and am out of seruice, and faine would I haue a good Master. What Countryman art thou said the Gentleman & from whence comcest thou? Sir, said *Ruslb*, I was borne farre hence and many a myle haue I gone to seeke a good seruice, but none can I find. What canst thou doe said the gentleman, and what is thy name? Sir said *Ruslb*, I can doe any manner of thing that shall please you to set me vnto, & *Ruslb* is my name. Then said the gentleman vnto him: *Ruslb* tarry heere with me, and I will retaine thee into my seruice. When *Ruslb* heard the gentleman speake so, hee thanked him much and tarryed there. Then as the Gentleman and *Ruslb* went talking together, the gentleman said vnto him: *Ruslb* thou hast trauailed farre and gone through many strange Countries: canst thou shew me where to finde

finde any man, can Coniure a spirit out of a womans body? Sir, said *Russh*, why aske you me that question? I shall shew thee, said the gentleman, I haue a Daughter which is a faire young woman, but she is sore troubled in her minde, and as I suppose shee hath some Diuell within her body. Sir, said *Russh*, I pray you let me see her, and I trust speedily to finde remedy for her. Then the gentleman brought *Russh* into the place and shewed him his Daughter. And when he saw her he knew what she had within her body: Anon he said vnto the gentleman, sir there is remedy enough for this. Well said the gentleman, if thou canst finde me any that can helpe her thereof, I will reward him well for his labour, and thee also. Sir, I will shew you what is to be done, there is a place of Religion a forty or fifty miles hence, wherein I was a seruant a long time, and the Priour is a cunning man in that science: and I doubt not, but if he were heere euen now she should be holpen within this houre. When the gentleman heard the words of *Russh*, he reioyced in his heart and was full glad of that good tydings. And on the morrow after, the gentleman sent his seruant with his letters vnto that house of Religion, desiring the Priour to come and speake with him. When the Priour had read the gentlemans letters, and knew for what cause he was sent for, he made him ready to ride with the messenger. Then forth they rode, and the next day they arriued at the Gentlemans place. When the gentleman vnderstood that the Priour was come, he was glad and went to the gate, and with great reuerence he receiued the Priour, and brought him into his place. Then the gentleman commanded his seruant to fill a cup of Wine, that the Priour and he might drinke together. And when they had drunke and refreshed themselues

themfelues well, they walked foorth into a faire Garden, and then they commoned together of many things, and when they had finished all their communications, the Gentleman faid vnto the Priour: Sir, the caufe that you be come hither is this. It is fo, that I haue a young Gentlewoman to my daughter which is grieuoufly vexed and troubled in her minde, and as I fuppofe ſhe hath ſome wicked Spirit in her body, and fir, it was ſhewed me by a ſeruant of mine which was long ſeruant in your place, that you could helpe her. Sir ſaid the Priour what is his name? The gentleman ſaid his name is *Ruſſ*. And when the Priour heard his name hee knew him well enough, and ſaid vnto the gentleman, fir, cauſe the gentlewoman to come before me and I truſt in almighty God, ſhortly to finde a remedy for her, and when the gentleman heard the Priour ſpeake ſo, he was glad in his heart, and commanded in all haſt to bring foorth his Daughter before the Priour: and when ſhe was come into his preſence, he commanded her to kneele downe vpon her knees, and alſo he commanded her Father and her Mother, and all the company that were there preſent, in likewiſe to kneele vpon their knees, and pray vnto almighty God for the young Gentlewoman. And then he himſelfe ſaid certaine prayers ouer her: then he liſted vp his hand and bleſſed her, and incontinent there flew a great Deuill out of her mouth. And the Priour bound the Deuill ſo, that neuer after he came there. Thus was the young gentlewoman reſtored to her right minde and health againe. Then the Gentleman would haue giuen to the Priour a great ſumme of money for his labour, but he would take none, but ſaid vnto the gentleman: Sir, I haue a new Church in building, and I lacke Lead to couer the rooſe: and as it is informed me, this is a plentifull
Country

Country thereof. Wherefore fir, if it will please you to giue me asmuch as shall serue me: I and my Bretheren shall bee your dayly beadsmen, and you shall be prayed for as long as the world endureth. Yee shall haue as much as shall serue you, said the gentleman: But how will you doe for the carriage? Well inough said the Priour. Then the gentleman brought him to a great heape of Lead, and bad him take asmuch as would serue him. Presently the Priour called foorth *Ruff* and commanded him to take on his necke so much Lead as would couer his Church, and beare it home, and come againe quickly. So *Ruff* tooke the lead on his necke at once and carryed it home, and he was there againe within halfe an houre. Then the Priour tooke his leaue of the Gentleman and departed, commaunding *Ruff* to bring him home also. Then *Ruff* tooke him on his necke, and within one quarter of an houre he was at home. Then the Priour coniured *Ruff* againe into his owne likenesse, and commanded him to goe into an olde Castle that stood farre within the Forrest, and neuer more to come out, but to remaine there for euer. From which Deuill
 and all other Deuils, defend
 vs good Lord.
 Amen.

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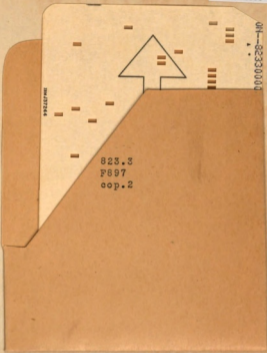
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