

ISSOBELL GOWDIES THIRD CONFESSION.

AT ADLDERNE, the fyftein day of May, 1662 yeiris, IN
prefence of Mafter HARIE FORBES,
Minifter of the Gofpell at Auldeme, Mr HEW ROSSE,
Minifter at Nairn ; JOHNE INNES of
Edingeith; HEW HAY of Newtoun; Mr ALEX DUNBAR,
Schoolmafter and Seffion Clerk of
Aulderne ; GEORGE PHINNEY, in Kirkmichaell ; and Johne
Weir, and Andrew Eafie in
Aulderne ; and many vtheris, WITNESSIS to THE CONFESSION
efter fett down, fpoken furth of
the mouth of ISSOBELL GOWDIE, fpous to Johne Gilbert in
Lochloy.

THE quhilk day, in prefence of me, JOHNE INNES, Notar
Publict, and Witneffes all vnder fubfcry-
wand, the faid ISSOBELL GOWDIE, appeiring to be moft
penetent for hir abominable finnes of Witch
craft, moft ingenwoflie procedit in hir CONFESSION
therof, in maner efter following ; to witt. Firft, as
I wes goeing betwixt the townis of Drumdewin and the
Headis, THE DIVELL met with me, and thair
I covenanted with him, and promeifit to meit him, in the
night tym, in the Kirk of Aulderne ; quhilk
I did. He ftood in the Readeris dafk, and an blak book in
his hand ; quhair I tarn befor him, and
renuncet JESUS CHRIST and my baptifme ; and all betuixt
the foale of my foot and the croun of my
head, I gaw frielie wp and ower to THE DIVELL. Margaret
Brodie, in Aulderne, held me wp to
THE DIVELL, wntill he re-baptifed me, and marked me in
the fhoulder, and with his mouth fucked
out my blood at that place, and fpowted it in his hand,
and fprinkling it wpon my head and face, he
faid, ' I baptife ye, JANET, to my felff, in my own
uam !' Within a whyll thereafter we all removed.
And within few dayes he cam to me, in the New Wardis of
Injhoch, and ther haid carnall cowpula-
tioun with me. He wes a werie meikle blak roch man. He
will lye als hewie wpon ws, quhau he
hes carnall dealling with ws, lyk an malt-fecke. His
memberis ar exceiding great and long ; no mans
memberis ar fo long and bigg as they ar. He wold be
amongft ws lyk a weath horfe amongft mears.

He wold lye with ws in prefence of all the multitud ;
neither haid we nor he any kynd of fliame ; bot
efpeciallie he hes no fhame with him at all. He wold lye
and hawe caraall dealling with all, at euerie
tym, as he pleafed. He wold haw carnal! dealling with ws
in the (hape of a deir or any vther (hap
that he wold be in. We wold never rcfufe him. He wold com
to my hows-top in the fliape of a
crow, or lyk a deir, or in any vther fhap, now and then.
I wold ken his woice, at the firft heiring of
it, and wold goe furth to him and haw carnall
cowpulation with him. The yonggeft and Iwftieft
women will haw werie great pleafour in their carnall
cowpulation with him, yea much mor than with
their awin hofbandis ; and they will haw a exceiding
great delir of it with him, ala much as he can haw
to them, and mor ; and never think lliame of it. He is
abler for ws that way than any man can be
(Alace ! that I fould compair him to ane man !) onlie he
ves heavie lyk a malt-feck ; a hudg nature,
verie cold, as yce.

He wold fend me now and then to Aulderne fom earandis to
my neightbouris, in the fhape of ane
hair. I wes on morning, abowt the break of day, going to
Aulderne in the fhap of ane hair, and Patrik
Papleyis ferwandis, in Kilhill, being goeing to ther
labouring, his houndis being with them, ran efter
me, being in the fliape of an haire. I ran werie long,
bot wes forcet, being wearie, at laft to take my
own lious. The dore being left open, I ran in behind an
chift, and the honndis followed in ; bot they
went to the vther fyd of the chift ; and I was forcet to
run furth agane, and wan into an vther hows,
and thair took leafour to fay,

' HAIR, hair, God feud the cair !

I am in a hearis liknes now,

Bot I fall be an voman ewin now !

Hair, hair, God fend the cair !'

And fo I returned to my owin fhap, as I am at this

infant, again. The dowgis will fom tymes get
fom byttis ' of vs, quhan ve ar in bairis, bot will not
get ws killed. Quhan ve turn owt of a bairis
liknes to owr awin fhap, we will haw the byttis, and
rywis, and fcrattis in owr bodies. Quhan we
void be in the fhap of cattis, we did nothing but cry and
wraw, and rywing, and as it ver, wirrieing on
an vther ; and quhan ve com to owr awin fhapes again, ve
will find the fcrattis and rywes on our fkins,
werie for. Quhan on of vs or mor ar in the fhap of catis,
and meitt with ony vtheris owr neightbouris,
we will fay,

' DIVELL SPEID THE GOE THOW WITH ME !'

And immediatlle they will turne in the fhape of an catt,
and goe with ws. Quhen we wilbe in the fhap
of crowes, we will be larger than ordinar crowes, and
will fitt wpon brenches of treis. We went in
the fliape of rewkis to Mr Robert Donald/ones hows, THE
DIVELL, and Johne Taylor, and his wyff,
went in at the kitchen chimney, and went down wpon the
crowk. It wes about Lambes, ' in anno
1659 ; they opened an vindow, and (we) went all in to the
hows, and gott beiffe and drink thair ; bot
did no more harme. We went in to the Dovmie-hillis ; the
hill opened, and we cam to an fair and
lairie braw rowme, in the day tym. Thair ar great bullis
rowtting and fkoylling ther, at the entrie,
quhilk feared me.

Bot that quhich troubles my confcience moll, is the
killing of feveral perfones, with the arrowes
qnhich I gott from THE DIVELL. The firft woman that I
killed wes at the Plewgh-landis ; alfo I killed
an E in the Eaft of Murrey, at Candlmas laft. At that
tyme BeJJie Wilfon, in Alderne, killed on
thair ; and Margaret Wilfon, ther, killed an vtber ; I
killed alfo James Dick in Canniecavill : Bot the
death that I am moft of all forrie for, is the killing of
William Bower, in the Miltowne of Moynes ;
Margaret Brodie killed an voman, wafhing, at the Burne of
Torres ; BeJJie Wil/bne killed an man at
the Bufhe of Strwtheris ; Beffie Hay in Aulderne killed
an prettie man called Dunbar, at the Eift
end of the Towne of Forres, as he wes coming owt at an

gaitt ; Margaret Brodie in Aulderne killed
on David Blak, in Darnvay. Janet Breadhead, fpows to
Johne Taylor, told me, a litle befor ihe
wes apprehendit, that Margaret Wilfone in Aulderne (hot
Alexander HucJieon, in Aulderne ; Janet
Breadheid {hot Johne Falconer, in the Park. The raoft of
ws all wer ther, at that tyrne. BeJJie
Wilfone killed on William Man, at Burgie ; Margaret
Wilfone killed on Johne Lee, and Janet
Breadheid killed a fuyn ' at Burgie ; BeJJie Wilfone in
Aulderne, on an firft Monday of the Reath,
took a bagg maid of hairia lieweris, the fleih, gnttis
and gallis of toadis, naillis of fingeris and toes,
and f winged it on an young man called Thomas Reid, and
he died. Beffie and Margaret Wilfones
in Aulderne, Johne Taylor and his wyff, Margrat Brodie
and I, and THE DIVELL, wer together, and
Mr ffarie Forbes, Minifter at Aulderne, goeing to Moynes.
THE DIVELL gaw Margret Brodie an
arrow to fiioot at him, quhilk Ihe did ; bot it cam fhort
; and the Divell cawfed tak it wp again. We
defiret to Ihoot again, bot the Divell faid, ' No ; we
wold not gett his lyff at that tyme !' The Divell
cawfed me to fhoot at the Lairdof Park, as he was
croceing the Burne of the Boath ; bot I miffed him.
We wold goe to feuerall howfls, in the night tym. We wer
at Candlmas last in Graingehill,
quhair we got meat and drink anewgh. THE DIVELL sat at
the held of the table, and all the COVEN
about. That night he defirit Alexander Elder, in
Earlfeat, to fay the grace befor meat, quhilk he did ;
and is thus :

' WE eat this meat in THE DIVELLIS nam,
With forrow, and fych, and meikle ihame ;
We fall deftroy hows and hald ;
Both flieip and noat in till the fald.
Litle good fall come to the fore
Of all the reft of the litle ftore !'

And than ve began to eatt. And quhan ve haid endit
eattin, we looked fteadfaftlie to THE DIVELL,
and bowing owrfelwes to him, we faid to the Divell,

' WE thank the owr Lord for this !' &c.

The wordis which we fjiak, quhan we maid the pictur, for diftroyeing of tlie Laird of Parkis meall-children, wer thus :

' IN THE DIVELLIS nam, we powr in this water among this mowld (meall,) For lang duyning and ill heall ; We putt it into the fyre, That it mey be brunt both ftik and ftowre. It falbe brunt, with owr will. As any ftikle wpon a kill."

THE DIVELL taught ws the wordis ; and quhan ve haid learned them, we all fell downe wpon owr bare kneysis, and owr hair about owr eyes, and owr handis lifted wp, looking fteadfalt wpou THE DIVELL, ftijl faying the wordis thryfe ower, till it wes maid. And then, in THE DIVELLIS nam, we did put it in, in the midft of the fyre. Efter it had fkrukned a litle befor the fyre, and quhan it ves read lyk a coale, we took it owt in THE DIVELLIS nam. Till it be broken, it will be the deathe of all the meall children that tlie Laird of Parh will ewer get. Caft it ower an Kirk, it will not brak quhill it be broken with an aix, or fom fuch lyk thing, be a man's handis. If it be not broken, it will laft an hundreth yeir. It hes ane cradle about it of clay, to preferue it from fkaith ; u and it wes ron.cn each vther day, at the f yr ; fom tymes on pairt of it, fom tymes an vtber pairt of it ; it void be a litle wat with water, and then roften. The bairn void be brunt and roften, ewin as it ves by ws. It wanted no mark of all the pairtis of an child, little lippis, &c., and the handis of it folded downe by its fydis. Johne Taylor and Janet Breadheid his wyff, Beffie and Margret Wil/bnes in Aulderne, and I my felfe, with THE DIVEI.L, wer onlie at the making of it ; hot all the multitud of all owr COEVENS got notice of it, at the nixt meitting ; for all owr actis and deidis, betuixt grett Meittingis, moft be geven accompt of, and netted in his book at each Grand Meitting bot all my owin COVEN gott notice of it werie fchortlie. THE DIVELL him felf cam to me, to my awin

hows, and bad me meitt him in Johne Tayloris
hows, to help thaim to mak the faid pictur. All THE COVEN
did fflie lyk cattis, keas, liairis, and
rewkis, &c. bot Barbara Ronald, in Brightmanney, and I,
ftill s read on an horfe, quhich ve void mak
of a ftraw or beehvftalk. Beffie Wil/bne wes ftill in the
liknes of a rewk.

Quban we ar at meat, or in any vther place quhateuir, the
Maiden of each COVEN fittis abow the
reft, nixt THE DIVELL ; and fhe ferwis THE DEVILL, for
all the old peopill that he cairis not for, and
ar veak and wnmeit for him. He will be with hir and ws
all lyk a weath-horfe efter mearis ; and
fomtymes a man, bot werie wilfull in carnall cowpulation
at all tymes ; and they ewin fo als wilfull
and defirows of him. Som tymis, among owr felwis, we wold
be calling him ' BLAK JOHNE,' or
the lyk, and he wold ken it, and heir ws weill aneughe ;
and he ewin then com to ws, and fay, ' I ken
weill anewgh what ^e wer fayeing of me !' And then he
rold beat and buffet ws werie for. We wold
be beattin if ve wer abfent any tyme, or neglect any
thing that wold be appointit to be done. Alley r
Elder, in Earlfear, void be werie oft beattin. He is bot
foft, and cowld never defend him felf in the
leift, bot greitt and cry, quhan he void be fcourging
him. Bot Margret Wilfon, in Alderne, wold
defend hir felf fynlie, and caft wp hir handis to keip
the ftroakis off from hir; and -Beffie Wil/bne
wuld fpeak cruftie with hir townge, and wold be belling
again to him ftowtlie. He wold be beating
and fcurgeing ws all wp and downe with cardis and vther
(harp fcurses, like naked gwhaftis; and
we wold be ftill cryeing, ' Pittie ! pittie ! Mercie !
mercie, owr Lord !' Bot he wold haw neither
pittie nor mercie. Whan he void be angrie at ws, he wold
girne at ws lyk a dowge, as iff he wold
fwellow ws wp. Somtym he void be lyk a ftirk, a bull, a
deir, a rae, or a dowg, &c., and haw dealling
with ws ; and he void hold wp his taill wntill we wold
kifle his arce. And at each tyme, quhan ve
wold meitt with him, we behoowit to ryfe and mak our
curtefie ; and we wold fay, ' 3e ar welcom
owr Lord !' and ' How doe, my Lord !' &c. Quhan we wold

tak the furit 8 (fruit ?) away of
anie perfonis midden or dunghill, we wold fay thus, (when
we wold putt haiked flefh of an vnchriſtned
child, dowgis and fheipis flefli, and pairingis of
naillis, &c., all haked throw-vther) :

' WE putt this intill this ham,
In our Lord THE DIVELLIS nam.
The firft handis that handles the,
Brunt and fcalded fall they be !
We fall diftroy hows and bald,
With the fheip and nout intil the fald,
And litle fal come to the fore
Of all the reft of the litle-ftore I'

We killed an ox, in Burgie, about the dawing of the day,
and we brought the ox with ws bom to
Aulderne, and did eat all amongft ws, in an hows of
Aulderne, and feafted on it.

THE DEVILL wold giw ws the braweft lyk money that ewer
wes coyned ; within fowr and twantie
houris it void be horfe-mnke. Alace ! I deferw not to be
fitting heir, for I haw done fo manie evill
deidis, efpeciallie killing of men, &c. I deferw to be
reivin wpon iron harrowes, and worfe, if it culd
be devyfit I

And quhan we tak away the fruit of cornis, at Lambes, we
tak an wooll-fheeir, and cuttis or clips
onlie thrie ftakis of it, and plaitis vther thrie rudis
together, and fayes,

< WE cutt this come in our Lord THE DIVELLIS nam,
And we fall haw the fruit of it ham !'

And this thryfe ower ; and fo we haw the fruit of that
field. Ewin fo, quhan we tak keall or the lyk,
&c. And we lay all vp till Yewll, Pace, or Halie dayes ;
and pairtis it among vs, and feaftis on that
together.

WPON the quhilkis all and fundrie of the premuTes, fwa
fpokin and willinglie Confest be the faid
Iffbbell Gowdie, I, the faid Johne Innes, Notar publict,

haw wretten thir prefentis, and with the
Witnefies abow and vnder namet, haw fubfcryuit the famen
with our handis, day, moneth, place, and
yeir abow fett doun.

JOANNES INNES, Notarius Publicus.

Ma HARY FORBES, Minister of Auld Earn, Attestis.

HEN. ROSE, Minister at Nairne, Attestis the foil-said
Declaratioun, as to the principal substantiate.
HEW HAY of Newtoun, Attestes. Jo. WEIR, in Auldearne,
Attestis.

ISSOBELL GOWDIE'S FOURTH CONFESSION.

AT AULDERNE, the tuantie fevinth day of May, 1662 yeiris.
IN prefence of MASTER HARIE
FORBES, Minifter at Aulderne ; PATRIK CAMPBELL of Boath ;
MR ALEX DUMBAR, School-
mafter and Clerk of the Session of Aulderne ; GEORGE
PHINNEY, in Kirkmichaell ; HEW HAY
of Newtowne; and JOHNE WEIR, in Aulderne; WITNESSES to
THE CONFESSION of ISSOBELL
GOWDIE, fpows to Johne Gilbert, in Lochloy.

THE faid day, the faid ISSOBELL, profeffing repentance
for hir former finnes of Witchcraft, and that
(lie had bein ower long in THE DIVELLIS fervice ; without
ony compulfitouris, procedit in hir CON
FESSION, in maner efter following: That is to fay. I
acknowledg, to my great grieff and lhain, that
fyftein yeiris fince I denyed FATHER, SON, and HOLIE
Gosx, in the Kirk of Aulderne ; and gaw over
my bodie and fowll to THE DIVELL ; he (landing in the
Readeris Dafk of Aulderne, and an blak book
in his hand: Margret Brodie, in Aulderne, held me wp to
THE DIVELL, quhill did this, andquhill
he marked me one the ihoulder, and fowked out my blood
thairat, and (bitted it in his hand, and
fprinkled it on my head, and baptifed me ' JANET,' in his
owin nam. Efter that, he had carnall
cowpulation with me, in the New Wardis of Infhoch ; and
dill thairefter, fra tym to tym, at owr

pleafour.

The names of THE COEVEN ar thes. Beffie Wil/bne, in Aulderne; Janet Burnet, ther; Elfpet Niflrie, ther; Margret Brodie, ther; Margret Vilfone, ther; Beffie Hay, ther; Johne Taylor, in Belmakeith; Janet Bread/lead, his fpous ; Barbara Ronald, IJJbell Nicoll, in Lochloy; my felf, with Jean Mairten, our MAIDEN ; and Johne Young, in Mebeftoun, owr OFFICER. THE NAMES OF OWR DIVELLIS, tliat waited upon ws, ar thes. Firft, ROBERT, the Jahis ; SANDERIS, the Read Reaver; THOMAS, theFearie; SWEIN, the roaring Lion; THIEFFE OF HELL, Wait wpon Mr felf ; MAKHECTOUR ; ROBERT, the Rule ; HENDRIE LAING ; and RORIE. We wold ken them all, on by on, from vtheris. Som of thaim apeirit in fadd-dun, fom in graffe-grein, fom in fea-grein, and fom in yallow. THE NIK-NAMES that THE DIVELL gaw wnto ws wer, PIKELL NEIREST THE VIND, this wes Margret Wilfones niknam ; Beffie Wilfones niknam ves THROW THE CORN-YAIRD ; El/pet Nijhies niknam ves BESSIE BALD ; Jean Mairtenis niknam, quho ves MAIDEN, is OWER THE DYK WITH IT ; Beffie Hayes nickname is ABLE AND STOUT.

I haw fein the Elf-arrows maid. The Divell dights them, and the Elf-boyes qnhytes them. We got ewerie on (of) ws fo many of tbaina from the Divell, to (hoot at men. s I my felf killed on Wil liam Bower, at Miltoun of Moynes. This griewis me mor than any thing that I ewer did. Margret Brody killed an woman, wafhing, at Hie Burn of Tarras. Beffie Wilfon killed an man, at the Bw/h of StrutJieris. Beffie Hay killed on Dunbar, at the Eaft end of the town of Forrcs, coming owt at a gait. Margret Brodie fliot at on David Blak. Margret Wilfone killed on Alex r Hucheon, in Aulderne. Janet Bread/lead, now in prifon, killed Johne Falconer, in Park. Ther were thrie killed Eaft the cowntrie, at Candlmas laft : I killed on, Margret Brodie on, and Beffie Wilfon on. I fliot on James Dik, in Connicavell ; Mary ret Brodie killed on W m Cruk/hank; Margret Vilfon killed on Johne Ley ; Janet Bread/lead killed a fuyne, alfo flie killed an

vther man at Burgie ; and Beffie Wilfon
killed on thair, namet W m Man. We killed an ox, and
brought it to Beffie Hayes hows, in Aulderne ;
and we did eat him thair. I fliot at the Laird of Park,
as he ves eroding the Burn of Boath ; hot,
thankis to God now, that he preferwit him. Beffie Hay gaw
me a great cuffe, becaus I miffed him.
Margaret Brodie' fliot at Mr Harie Forbes, at the
Standing-ftanes, bot fhe miffed ; and fpeirit,
' If flie fould flioot again ?' And the DIVELL faid ' Not
! For we wold nocht get his lyf at that tym.'
We intentit feuerall tymes for him, qulian he ves feik.
Beffie Hay, Jean Mairten, the Maiden,
Beffie Wilfon, Margret Brodie, Elfpet Nijhie, fpows to
Johne Matltow, and I myfelf met in Beffie
Wilfones hows, and maid an bag againft him. The bag wes
maid of the flefli, guttis, and gallis of
toadis, the liewer of a hear, pikles of corn, and
pairingis of naillis of fingeris and toes ; we fteipit
all
night among water. The Devell learned ws to fay thes
wordis following, at the making of the bag :
' HE is lying in his bed and he is feik and fair,
Let him ly in till that bedd monthes two and dayes thrie
tnair I
He fal ly in till his bed, he falbefeik and fair
He fall lye in till his bedd monethes two and dayes thrie
mair !'

And quhan we haid faid thes wordis, we wer all on our
kneyis, our hair abowt owr fhowlderis and
eyes, holding wp our handis to THE DIVELL, that it might
dellroy the faid Mr Harie. It ves intentit
that ve, coming in to his chalmer, in the night tym, we
fould fwing it on him. And becaus we pre
vailed not at that tym, Beffie Hay vndertook and cam in
to his chalmer to wifit him, being werie
intimat with him; and flie brought in of the bag in hir
handis, full of the oyll thairof, to haw fwoing
and caften dropis of it on him ; bot ther wer fom vther
worthie perfons with him at that tym, by
quhich God prevented Beffie Hay, that flie got no harm
don to him, bot fwang a litl of it on the
clothes of the bed quhair he lay.

Johne Taylor and his wyff, Beffie and Margret Wilfones,
and I, maid a pictur for the Laird of
Parkis maill children. Johnne Taylor brought horn the
clay in his plaid newk ; his wyff fifted it ;
we powred in vater in a cowg amongflit, and wrought it
for, and maid a pictor of it, lyk a child, als
big as a pow. It vanted no mark of the imag of a baim,
eyes, nofe, mouth, litle lippies, and the hands
of it folded down by its fydis. The vordis that we faid,
quhan we maid it, ver thes :
' WE put this water among this meal),

For long dwyning and ill heall ;

We put it in intill the fyr,

To bum them vp both ftik and flour,

That be brunt with our will,

As any ftikill on an kill ! '

THE DIVELL fitton on an blak kifl. Ve wer al on our
kneysis, aaid ovr hair about our eyes, looking
on THE DIVELL ftedfaftlie, and ovr handis lifted vp to
him, faying the vordes ower. And by this the
bairnis died, &c. All this, with a great many mor
terrible thingis, the faidis Witneffes and Notar
hard the faid IJJbell CONFES, and moft willinglie and
penetently fpeak furth of hir ovin mouth. IN
witnes quhairof, WE haw fubfcryuit thir prefenttis, with
ovr handis, day, yeir, and place, abow fett down