Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

A Discourse betwixt *William O Conner* a Priest, and Servant to the Queen-mother, and *Anne Hussey* an *Irish* Gentlewoman of the House of *Galtrum*, usually working at Mistris *Pinoks* House a School-mistris on the backside of *Lions* Inne in the *Strand, at severall meetings of theirs since* Easter 1640. *in these words, or to this effect.*

Anne Hussey comming to Goodwife *Walker*, a stocking mender in the Strand, who said to mee, I would your Countryman were as honest as you, that lyes at my house, then I asked her, who hee was? Goodwife *Walker* answered mee, and said hee is a Priest, and a servant to the Queen-mother, and if any had wit to search it out, they would find out a great deal of Treason in him, then I said to Goodwife *Walker*, if you will be true to me, and not discover me to be a Protestant, I will fetch it out of him if I can, and Goodwife *Walker* promised, that shee would not discover mee, so the next day early in the morning, I went up to his chamber at the said Goodwife *Walkers* house, and

was directed to it by her Husband, and when the Prieſt had opened his door, and I in his chamber, he asked me, if I knew him? I anſwered no, but I inquired for an Iriſhman, that came with the Queen-mother, and hearing that he was one, I was bold to come up to him, to entreate him to enquire for an Uncle of mine, one Maſter *Nicholas Huſſey* (a Prieſt) at the Spaniſh Ambaſſadours, whether he was alive, or come over into *England*, *William O Conner* anſwered me, why doe you not go and enquire your ſelf? I anſwered, I being a woman, was loath to goe amongſt ſo many men.

Prieſt. Are you a Catholike?

Huſſey. I was born, and bred one.

P. What houſe of *Ireland* are you of?

H. Of the houſe of *Galtrum.*

P. They are Royall Catholikes, and worthy people, then he asked mee what my name was? I told him *Anne Huſſey*, ſo hee brought mee to Miſtris *Pinocks* houſe, and ſo departed for that time.

At a ſecond meeting on Saturday after, *William O Connor* the Prieſt came againe to Miſtris *Pinocks* houſe to aske for mee, and deſired mee goe drinke with him at a Tavern, which I refuſed, but went with him to one Maſter *Hils* an Alehouſe, and there we fell into this following diſcourſe.

H. I told him I was troubled in minde about one thing that I deſired to know.

P. You muſt relate it to a Prieſt.

H. If I knew an *Iriſh* Prieſt, that would tell mee faithfully, I would.

P. I am one my ſelfe, and immediatly he croſſed me over the forehead.

H. I asked him, whether the number of the protestants, or the papists in *England* were the greatest?

P. He said the papists were.

H. Then they will conquer our Country (meaning *Ireland.*)

P. First, we must begin with *England.*

H. How, or in what manner will they begin with *England?* and when will it be?

P. When the King goes to *Scotland.*

H. There is no hope of the Kings going to *Scotland.*

P. I'le warrant you he doth.

H. Can not you procure me Letters from beyond Sea, to help me to be a Nun.

P. It is a hard taske for you to performe, to be a Nun.

H. Why, I can live chast, I never mean to marry.

P. Although you do not marry, you may ly with a man.

H. I but that is a sin.

P. But the Priest can forgive it.

H. I know he can.

P. Yes you may ly with a man, steale, kill a man, or any man may kill a King, for the advancement of the Church of *Rome*, and the Priest can forgive him.

H. I have heard there is a protestant book called a Bible, and by their report it saith, *that whosoever sheds mans bloud, by man shall his bloud be shed,* and we must feare God, and honour the King, and pray for the King, that wee may live a peaceable, a quiet, and a holy life.

P. For your life read not that book, for I wil not

read it for a thousand worlds, and further said, whether doe you goe to Masse?

H. To a private house I doe goe.

P. I praise God there is many of them, and bid me come next day (being Sabbath day) to Saint *Jameses*, and I should heare him say Masse before the Queene-mother.

H. I have businesse to morrow, that I cannot go thither to Masse, nor to any other place, but will some other time.

So ended our discourse at that time.

At an other meeting, &c.

H, At his request I went to his Chamber at Mistris *Scarlotts* house in Coven Garden, in Blackmoore streete, at the signe of the Sedan (about a fortnight after) one day in the after noone, where I found him upon his Bed, and hee gave mee three shirts of fine holland of about sixteene shillings an ell (as they were judged) to mark for him upon the brest or bosome, in this manner following.

Iesus Maria.

William O Conner.

At which time hee shewed mee his beads, and other knacks, and clothes made of black plush, scarlet, and as I think a hairecolour satten, after this I left him and carried away the shirts to bee marked, but instead of marking them as hee directed, I marked them onely with a Crucifix and his name, and the same night about nine of the clock, hee came to mee for his Shirts, and brought an Irish man with him in a long gray coate, with a sword girt close to his side,

under

Digitized by UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

H. I doe not like their fury, if they once draw the ſword, they are like Lions.

P. What are they, if their King be cut off?

H. You can never overcome the King by the Sword.

P. If we cannot that way, we can another.

H. How?

P. Do you think my Lady and Queen is a fool?

H. I do not think ſhe is a fool.

P. If no hand will do it, this hand ſhall.

H. Do what?

P. Kill him.

H. Who?

P. The King.

H. What, you kill the King?

P. Aye, kill an Heretike at any time for the advancement of the Mother-church of *Rome*, and ſwore by Saint *Francis*, and Saint *Dominick*, that he would doe it, and promiſed to come again, on Munday after, to pay me for marking of his ſhirts, and to beſtow ſome Bracelets upon mee, but hee never came to me afterwards.

This *William O Conner*, the Prieſt, would not ſuffer me to ſpeak a word in all this diſcourſe, but in *Iriſh*, and confeſſed he hath bin long employed by the Queen-mother in her buſineſſe with all the Princes in Chriſtendome, and with the great Turke, and hee profeſſed further to Goodwife *Walker*, (as ſhee told me on Munday laſt) much of his care in the keeping of the Queens ſecrets, and that he would be burnt in a fire before hee would reveal them.

FINIS.

Digitized by
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME