

Tillingham : A second Virgin Mary! : from some fragmentary leaves, in the possession of Charles Clark. (Fac-simile reprint) / printed by Charles Clark, (an amateur) at his Private Press.

Contributors

Clark, Charles, 1806-1880

Publication/Creation

[between 1850 abd 1880?]

Persistent URL

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TILLINGHAM.

A SECOND VIRGIN MARY!

*From some fragmentary leaves, in the possession
of Charles Clark.*

(FAC-SIMILE REPRINT.)

The next thing that is here to be spoken of, farre exceeds all the ungodly actions that ever I heard report of before.

In the County of Essex, at a place called Tillingham, there lived one Mary Adams, who said that she was the Virgin Mary, and that shee was conceived with childe by the Holy Ghost, and how all the Gospell that had been taught heretofore, was false, and that which was within her, she said, was the true Messias, for which blasphemous words, and wicked Opinion of hers, the Officers apprehended her, and cast her into Prison, untill the time came that she was to be delivered, to see what she would bring forth, but when the Midwife and other good women of the Parish were brought to her, they did their best endeavours to bring her to a safe deliverance, but could not prevaile, so that there she lay in great misery and much torment for the space of eight daies and nights, and at last brought forth the ugliest ill shapen Monster as ever eyes beheld, which being dead borne they buried it with speed, for it was so loathsome to behold that the womens hearts trembled to look upon it, for it had neither hands nor feet, but claws like a Toad in the place wher the hands should have been, and every part of it was contrary to the shape of other Christians.

And as for Mary Adams, which had named her selfe to be the Virgine Mary, she rotted and consumed as she lay, being from the head to the foot as full of botches, blaines, and boiles, and stinking scabs, as ever one could stand by another. But the end of her was in this manner, the women and others that was about her, seeing there was no hopes of her life, desired her to pray, and to aske forgiveness for her sins; shee answered them that her heart was so hardened in wickednes, that shee had no power to repent, but desired one of the women to lend her a knife to pare her nails, which when she had made use of, shee laid the knif aside til such time the women were gone, and afterwards ript up her bowells with that same knife.

This example may sufficiently serve wherby to warn al blasphemers, that they presume not to offend their heavenly Maker, in such a high degree: The truth of this matter is affirmed by the chiefeest men in Tillingham, whose names are here set down.

Here is an exact List, of the cheife men of the Towne, Mr. Hadley, Minister, James Townsworth, & Andrew Farmer, Churchwardens, Richard Staffe, Constable, with many more hands to signifie the matter here written, which deed was done upon the 17 day of January 1652.