

The art of making fireworks ; to which is added, the history of Guy Fawkes and gunpowder plot.

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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THE
ART
OF
MAKING
FIREWORKS:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
THE
HISTORY
OF
GUY FAWKS
AND
GUNPOWDER PLOT

TO
Overturn the Protestant Succession & Religion
DISCOVERED

NOVEMBER 5, 1605.
IN THE REIGN OF KING JAMES I.



LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. ALLEN,
21, CLERKENWELL GREEN.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

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To make Touch-paper.

DISSOLVE, in some spirits of wine or vinegar, a little salt petre; then take some purple or blue paper, and wet it with the above liquor, and when dry it will be fit for use. When you paste this paper on any of your works, take care that the paste does not touch that part which is to burn. The method of using this paper is, by cutting it into slips, long enough to go once round the mouth of a serpent, cracker, &c. When you paste on these slips, leave a little above the mouth of the case not pasted; then prime the case with meal powder, and twist the paper to a point.

To make Crackers.

Cut some stout cartridge paper into pieces three inches and a half broad, and one foot long; one edge of each of these pieces fold down lengthwise about three quarters of an inch broad; then fold the double edge down a quarter of an inch, and turn the single edge back half over the double fold; then open it, and lay all along the channel which is formed, by the foldings of the paper, some meal powder; then fold it over and over till all the paper is doubled up, rubbing it down every turn; this being done, bend it backwards and forwards, two inches and a half, or thereabouts, at a time, as often as the paper will allow; then hold all these folds flat and close, and with a small pinching

cord, give one turn round the middle of the cracker, and pinch it close; then bind it with pack-thread, as tight as you can; then in the place where it was pinched, prime one end of it, and cap it with touch paper. When these crackers are fired they will give a report at every turn of the paper; if you would have a great number of bounces, you must cut the paper longer, or join them after they are made; but if they are made very long before they are pinched, you must have a piece of wood, with a groove in it, deep enough to let in half the cracker; this will hold it straight while it is pinching. Fig. 1 represents a cracker complete.

To make Squibs and Serpents.

First make the cases, of about six inches in length, by rolling slips of stout cartridge paper three times round a roller, and pasting the last fold; tying it near the bottom as tight as possible, and making it air-tight at the end by sealing wax.---Then take of gun-powder one pound, charcoal one ounce, brimstone one ounce, and steel filings half an ounce, (or in like proportion,) grind them with a muller, or pound them in a mortar. Your cases being dry and ready, first put about half a thimble full of your powder, and ram it hard down with the ruler; then fill the case to the top with the aforesaid mixture, ramming it hard down in the course of filling two or three times; when this is done, point it with touch paper, which should be pasted in that part which touches the case, otherwise they are liable to drop off. See Fig. 2.

N. B. Fireworks should never be made by candle-light, or in a room where there is a fire!!!

Of Saltpetre.

Saltpetre being the principal ingredient in fireworks, and a volatile body, by reason of its aqueous and aerial parts, is easily rarified by fire; but not so soon when foul and gross, as when purified from its

crude and earthly parts, which greatly retard its velocity: therefore, when any quantity of fireworks are intended to be made, it would be necessary first to examine the saltpetre; for if it be not well cleansed from all impurities, and of a good sort, your works will not have their proper effect.

How to Pulverise Saltpetre.

Take a copper kettle whose bottom must be spherical, and put into it fourteen pounds of refined saltpetre, with two quarts or five pints of clean water; then put the kettle on a slow fire, and when the saltpetre is dissolved, if any impurities arise, skim them off, and keep constantly stirring it with two large spatulas, till all the water exhales; and when done enough, it will appear like white sand, and as fine as flour; but if it should boil too fast, take the kettle off the fire, and set it on some wet sand, which will prevent the nitre from sticking to the kettle. When you have pulverised a quantity of saltpetre, be careful to keep it in a dry place.

Of Sulphur or Brimstone.

Sulphur is by nature the food of fire, and one of the principal ingredients in gunpowder, and almost in all compositions of fireworks; therefore great care ought to be taken of its being good, and brought to the highest perfection. Now, to know when the sulphur is good, you are to observe that it be of a high yellow, and if, when held in one's hand, it crackles and bounces, it is a sign that it is fresh and good; but as the method of reducing brimstone to a powder is very troublesome to do, it is better to buy the flour ready made, which is done in large quantities, and in great perfection; but when a grand collection of fireworks are to be made, the strongest and best sulphur to use, is the lump brimstone ground in the same manner as gunpowder.

How to prepare Charcoal for Fireworks.

Charcoal is a preservative, by which the salt-petre and brimstone is made into gun-powder, by preventing the sulphur from suffocating the strong and windy exhalation of the nitre. There are several sorts of wood made use of for this purpose; some prefer hazle, others willow, others alder. The method of burning the wood is this; Cut it in pieces about one or two feet long, then split each piece in four parts; scale off the bark and hard knots, and dry them in the sun or in an oven; then make in the earth a square hole, and line it with bricks, in which lay the wood, crossing one another, and set it on fire; when thoroughly lighted and in a flame, cover the hole with boards, and fling earth over them close, to prevent the air from getting in, yet so as not to fall among the charcoal, and when it has lain thus for twenty-four hours, take out the coals and lay them in a dry place for use. It is to be observed that charcoal for fireworks must always be soft and well burnt, which may be bought ready done.

Of Gun-powder, &c.

Gun-powder being a principal ingredient in fireworks, it will not be improper to give a short definition of its strange explosive force, and cause of action, which, according to Dr. Shaw's opinion, of the chemical cause of the explosive force of gun-powder, is as follows. "Each grain of powder consisting of a certain proportion of sulphur, nitre, and coal, the coal presently takes fire, upon contact of the smallest spark; at which time both the sulphur and the nitre immediately melt, and by means of the coal interposed between them, bursts into flame; which spreading from grain to grain, propagates the same effect almost instantaneously; whence the whole mass of powder comes to be fired; and as nitre contains both a large proportion of air and water, which are now violently rarified by the heat, a kind of

fiery explosive blast is thus produced, wherein the nitre seems, by its aqueous and aerial parts, to act as bellows to the other inflammable bodies, sulphur and coal, to blow them into a flame, and carry off their whole substance in smoke and vapour."

To make Pulvis Fulmanans, or Thunder in a Room.

This composition is very simple, yet has a very curious effect; it is made of three parts of saltpetre, two of salt of tartar, and one of sulphur, all ground to a fine powder, and well incorporated together. As the effect of this powder is quite different to that of gun-powder, so is there a different method of firing it, which is thus; put about two tea-spoonfuls of it into a fire-shovel, or iron ladle, and set it over a slow fire, and when it is quite hot, it will go off with a violent report. There is something surprising in the nature of this composition; for as the common powder acts every way equal, and makes the greatest noise when confined, this, on the contrary, acts only downwards, and makes the strongest report when not confined.

How to meal Gun-powder, Brimstone, and Charcoal.

There have been many methods used to grind these ingredients to a powder for fireworks, such as large mortars and pestles, made of ebony, and other hard woods; but none of these methods have proved so effectual and speedy as the last invention, that of the mealing table. This table is made of elm, with a rim round its edge, four or five inches high; and at the narrow end is a slider, which runs in a groove and forms part of the rim; so that when you have taken out of the table, as much powder as you conveniently can, with a copper shovel, you may sweep all clean out at the slider. When you are going to meal a quantity of powder, observe not to put too much in the table at once; but when you have put

in a good proportion, take a muller and rub it therewith till all the grains are broke; then searce it in a lawn sieve that has a receiver and top to it; and that which does not pass through the sieve, return again to the table and grind it more, till you have brought it all fine enough to go through the sieve. Brimstone and charcoal are ground in the same manner as gun-powder, only the muller must be made of ebony, for these ingredients being harder than powder, would stick in the grain of elm, and be very difficult to grind; and as the brimstone is apt to stick and clod to the table, it would be best to keep one for that purpose only, by which means you will always have your brimstone clean and well ground.

Of such Ingredients as show themselves in Sparks when rammed in choaked Cases.

The set colours of fire produced by sparks are divided into four sorts, viz. the black, white, grey, and red; the black charges are composed of two ingredients, which are meal powder and charcoal; the white of three, viz. saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal; the grey of four, viz. meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone and charcoal; and the red of three, viz. meal powder, charcoal, and saw dust.

There are, besides these four regular or set charges, two others, which are distinguished by the names of compound and brilliant charges; the compound charge being made of many ingredients, such as meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, charcoal, saw dust, seacoal, antimony, glass dust, brass dust, steel filings, cast iron, tanner's dust, &c. or any thing that will yield sparks; all which must be managed with discretion. The brilliant fires are composed of meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, and steel dust; or with meal powder and steel filings only.

Of the Method of mixing Compositions.

The performance of the principal part of fireworks

depends much on the compositions being well mixed; therefore great care ought to be taken in this part of the work, particularly in the composition for sky-rockets. When you have four or five pounds of ingredients to mix, which is a sufficient quantity at a time (for a larger proportion will not do so well,) first put the different ingredients together, then work them about with your hands, till you think they are pretty well incorporated; after which put them into a lawn sieve with a receiver and top to it; and if, after it is sifted, any remains that will not pass through the sieve, grind it again till fine enough; and if it be twice sifted it will not be amiss; but the compositions for wheels and common works are not so material, nor need not be so fine. But in all fixed works, from which the fire is to play regular, the ingredients must be very fine, and great care taken in mixing them well together; and observe that, in all compositions wherein are steel or iron filings, the hands must not touch, nor will any works, which have iron or steel in their charge, keep long in damp weather, without being properly prepared, according to the directions given in the following article.

How to preserve Steel or Iron Filings.

It sometimes may happen, that fireworks may be required to be kept a long time, or sent abroad; neither of which could be done with brilliant fires, if made with filings unprepared; for this reason, that the saltpetre being of a damp nature, it causes the iron to rust, the consequence of which is, that when the works are fired, there will appear but very few brilliant sparks, but instead of them a number of red and drossy sparks, and besides, the charge will be so much weakened, that if this should happen to wheels, the fire will not be strong enough to force them round; but to prevent such accidents, prepare your filings after the following manner. Melt in a glazed

earthen pan some brimstone over a slow fire, and when melted throw in some filings, which keep stirring about till they are covered with brimstone; this you must do while it is on the fire; then take it off, and stir it very quick till cold, when you must roll it on a board with a wooden roller, till you have broke it as fine as corn powder; after which sift from it as much of the brimstone as you can. There is another method of preparing filings, so as to keep two or three months in winter; this may be done by rubbing them between the strongest sort of brown paper, which before has been moistened with linseed oil.

N. B. If the brimstone should take fire, you may put it out, by covering the pan close at top. It is not of much signification what quantity of brimstone you use, so that there is enough to give each grain of iron a coat; but as much as will cover the bottom of a pan of about one foot diameter, will do for five or six pound of filings. Cast iron for gerbes may be preserved by the above method.

Of Water Rockets.

Water rockets may be made from four ounces to two pound; but if larger they are too heavy, so that it will be difficult to make them keep above water without a cork float, which must be tied to the neck of the case, but the rockets will not dive so well with, as without floats.

Cases for water rockets are made in the same manner and proportion as sky rockets, only a little thicker of paper; when you fill these rockets, which are drove solid, put in, first, one ladle full of slow fire, then two of the proper charge, and on that one or two ladles of sinking charge; then the proper charge, then the sinking charge again, and so on, till you have filled the case within three diameters; then drive on the composition one ladle full of clay, through which make a small hole to the charge; then

fill the case, within half a diameter, with corn powder, on which turn down two or three rounds of the case in the inside ; then pinch and tie the end very tight. Having filled your rockets according to the above directions, dip their ends in melted rosin, or sealing wax, or else secure them well with grease. When you fire these rockets, throw in six or eight at a time ; but if you would have them all sink, or swim, at the same time, you must drive them with an equal quantity of composition, and fire them all together.

Of Water Squibs.

Water squibs are generally made of one ounce serpent cases, seven or eight inches long, filled two thirds with charge, and the remainder bounced ; the common method of firing them is thus : Take a water wheel, with a tin mortar in its center, which load with squibs, after the usual method, but the powder in the mortar must be no more than will just throw the squibs out easily into the water ; you may place the cases on the wheel, either obliquely, or horizontally ; and on the top of the wheel, round the mortar, fix six cases of brilliant fire, perpendicular to the wheel ; these cases must be fired at the beginning of the last case of the wheel, and the mortar at the conclusion of the same.

Of Marrons.

Formers for marrons are from three quarters of an inch, to one and a half diameter ; cut the paper for the cases twice the diameter of the former broad, and long enough to go three times round ; when you have rolled a case, paste down the edge, and tie one end close ; then with the former drive it down to take away the wrinkles and make it flat at bottom ; then fill the case with corn powder one diameter and a quarter high, and fold down the rest of the case tight

on the powder; the marron being thus made, wax some strong pack-thread with shoemakers' wax; this thread wind up in a ball; then unwind two or three yards of it, and that part which is near the ball, make fast to a hook; then take a marron, and stand as far from the hook as the pack-thread will reach, and wind it lengthwise round the marron, as close as you can, till it will hold no more that way; then turn it, and wind the pack-thread on the short way, then lengthwise again, and so on till the paper is all covered; then make fast the end of the pack-thread, and beat down both ends of the marron, to bring it in shape. The method of firing marrons is, by making a hole at one end with an awl, and putting in a piece of quick match; then take a piece of strong paper, in which wrap up the marron, with two leaders, which must be put down to the vent, and the paper tied tight round them with small twine; these leaders are bent on each side, and their loose ends tied to other marrons, and are nailed in the middle to the rail of the stand. The use of winding the pack-thread in a ball is, that you may let it out as you want it, according to the quantity the marron may require; and that it may not be tied in knots, which would spoil the marron.

Of Sky Rockets.

As the performance of rockets depend much on their moulds, or cases, it is necessary to give a definition of them. They are generally made about six inches long, and one in diameter. The mould should be of the stoutest cartridge paper, or pasteboard, six times round, and glued together well. The composition for filling them is, mealed powder one pound four ounces, saltpetre four ounces, and charcoal two ounces. The composition should be drove in as tight as possible with a rammer and mallet, the mould being fixed in a frame of iron or brass, made on purpose. See Fig. 3.

Of Table Rockets.

Table Rockets are designed merely to show the truth of driving, and the judgment of a fireworker; they having no other effect, when fired, than spinning round in the same place, where they begin, till they are burnt out, and showing nothing more than an horizontal circle of fire.

The method of making these sort of rockets is as follows; have a cone turned out of hard wood, two inches and a half diameter, and as much in height; round the base of it draw a line; on this line fix four spokes, two inches in length each, so as to stand one opposite the other; then fill four nine inch one pound cases, with any strong composition, within two inches of the top, rammed with the greatest exactness.

Your rockets being filled, fix their open ends on the short spokes, then in the side of each case bore a hole near the clay; all these holes, or vents, must be made in such a manner, that the fire of each case may act the same way; from these vents carry leaders to the top of the cone, and tie them together. When you would fire the rockets set them on a smooth table, and light the leaders in the middle, and all the cases will fire together, and spin on the point of the cone. See Fig. 4.

Note, all the vents in the under side of the cases must be lighted at once, and the sharp point of the cone cut off, at which place make it spherical.

To make Wheels and other Works incombustible.

It being necessary, when your works are new, to paint them of some dark colour; therefore, if instead of which, you make use of the following composition, it will give them a good colour, and in a great measure prevent their taking fire so soon as if painted. Take brick-dust, coal ashes, and iron filings, of each an equal quantity, and mix them together, with a double size, made hot. With this wash

over your works, and when dry wash them over again; this will preserve the wood greatly against fire. Let the brick-dust and ashes be beat to a fine powder.

Of Single Vertical Wheels.

There are different sorts of vertical wheels, some having their fells of a circular form, others of an hexagon, octagon, or decagon form, or any number of sides, according to the length of the cases you design for the wheel. Your spokes being fixed in the nave, nail slips of tin, with their edges turned up, so as to form grooves for the cases to lie in, from the end of one spoke to another; then tie your cases in the grooves, head to tail, in the same manner as those on the horizontal water wheel, so that the cases successively taking fire from one another, will keep the wheel in an equal rotation. Two of these wheels are very often fired together, one on each side of a building, and both lighted at the same time, and all the cases filled alike, to make them keep time together, which they will do if made by the following directions. In all the cases of both wheels, except the first, on each wheel, drive two or three ladles full of slow fire in any part of the cases, but be careful to ram the same quantity in each case; and in the end of one of the cases, on each wheel, you may ram one ladle full of dead fire composition, which must be very lightly drove; you may also make many changes of fire by this method.

Let the hole in the nave of the wheel be lined with brass, and made to turn on a smooth iron spindle. On the end of this spindle let there be a nut, to screw off and on; when you have put the wheel on the spindle, screw on the nut, which will keep the wheel from flying off. Let the mouth of the first case be a little raised. See Fig. 5. Vertical wheels are made from ten inches to three feet diameter, and the size of the cases must differ accordingly; four

ounce cases will do for wheels of fourteen, or sixteen inches diameter, which is the proportion generally used. The best wood for wheels of all sorts, is a light and dry beech.

Of Horizontal Wheels.

Horizontal wheels are best when their fells are made circular; in the middle of the top of the nave must be a pintle, turned out of the same piece as the nave, two inches long, and equal in diameter to the bore of one of the cases of the wheel: there must be a hole bored up the center of the nave, within half an inch of the top of the pintle. The wheel being made, nail at the end of each spoke (of which there should be six or eight), a piece of wood, with a groove cut in it to receive the case. These pieces fix in such a manner, that half the cases may incline upwards, and half downwards; and that, when they are tied on, their heads and tails may come very near together. From the tail of one case, to the mouth of the other, carry a leader, which secure with pasted paper. Besides these pipes, it will be necessary to put a little meal powder inside the pasted paper, in order to blow off the pipe, that there may be no obstruction to the fire from the cases. By means of these pipes the cases will successively take, one burning upwards, the other downwards. On the pintle fix a case of the same sort as those on the wheel; this case must be fired by a leader from the mouth of the last case on the wheel, which case must play downwards. Instead of a common case in the middle you may put a case of Chinese fire, large enough to burn as long as two or three of the cases on the wheel.

Horizontal wheels are often fired two at a time, and made to keep time like vertical wheels, only they are made without any slow or dead fire. Ten or twelve inches will be enough for the diameter of wheels with six spokes. Fig. 6 represents an horizontal wheel on fire, with the first case burning.

Of the Vertical Scrole Wheel.

This wheel may be made of any diameter, but must be constructed as shown by fig. 7, to do which proceed thus. Have a block made of a moderate size, into which fix four flat spokes, and on them fix a flat circular fell of wood. Round the front of this fell place portfires; then, on the front of the spokes form a scrole, either with a hoop or strong iron wire; on this scrole tie cases of brilliant fire, in proportion to the wheel, head to tail, as in the figure. When you fire this wheel, light the first case near the fell; then, as the cases fire successively, you will see the circle of fire gradually diminish; but whether the illuminations on the fell begin with the scrole or not is immaterial.

A slow Fire for Wheels

Is to be composed of saltpetre four ounces, brimstone two ounces, and meal powder one ounce and a half.

A dead Fire for Wheels,

Saltpetre ounce and a quarter, brimstone a quarter of an ounce, lapis calaminaris a quarter of an ounce, and antimony two drams.

A Brilliant Fire.

Mealed powder six pounds, saltpetre half a pound, brimstone two ounces, and steel dust twelve ounces.

For a Blue Flame.

Meal powder, salt petre, and sulphur vivum: the sulphur must be the chief part. Or, meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, spirit of wine, and oil of spike; but let the powder be the principal part.

Ingredients that make Sparks when rammed in Cases.

The set colours of fire produced by sparks are divided into four sorts, viz. the black, white, grey, and red. The black charges are composed of two ingredients, which are meal powder and charcoal; the white of three, saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal; the grey of four, meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, and charcoal; and the red of three, meal powder, charcoal, and saw dust.

Of Port or Wild Fires.

Saltpetre one pound two ounces, meal powder one pound and a half, and brimstone ten ounces. This composition must be moistened with one gill of linseed oil.



HISTORY

OF

GUNPOWDER PLOT.



IN the reign of King James I. whilst all things seemed to go on smooth and well, on November 5, 1605, there was suddenly discovered, the blackest and most horrid conspiracy that ever could enter into the heart of man. The Papists were very restless and uneasy, and inflamed with an implacable zeal against the Protestant succession and religion. This put them upon contriving one of the most horrible and stupendous mischiefs that ever could be invented, in order to overturn the whole constitution; their malice would not be satisfied with the blood royal, but the nobility and gentry, the representative body of the whole kingdom, united at Westminster, must be shattered in pieces and destroyed at once. This had its rise in the latter end of the last reign, when Pope Clement the Eighth published his bold breves in England, to exclude the King of Scotland from the succession. The principal author of this hellish conspiracy was Robert Catesby, a gentleman of a plentiful estate, who first contrived the plot, and drew in to his assistance Thomas Percy, Robert Winter, Thomas Winter, John Grant, Ambrose Rookwood, John Wright, Francis Tresham, Sir Everard Digby, and others, gentlemen of good estates, for the most part, and all zealous promoters of the catholic cause. Five of these meeting together behind St. Clement's church, and considering by what means they might retrieve their sinking cause, Percy presently pro-

posed the killing of the King; but Catesby replied, that if it should succeed, the catholic cause would be no better, while the Prince and Duke of York were alive; and if they were removed, still the counsellors, nobility, judges, knights, and many others would remain, sufficient to cross all their purposes; therefore he had thought of a safer and more effectual way, which was, at one time, and with one single blow, to cut off all their enemies, by blowing up the Parliament House with Gunpowder, at the very moment the King and the Estates of the realm were assembled. This was readily approved by all; but first it was deemed requisite to ask the opinion of their ghostly fathers, Henry Garnet, Oswald Tesmond, and John Gerard, jesuits; who being advised with, commended the undertaking, assuring them, they might proceed with a good conscience and perform the deed, since the design was against heretics.

Being thus satisfied, for their greater security, they proceeded to take an oath of secrecy, swearing to each other, by the sacred trinity, and the blessed sacrament, which they were then going to receive, that neither directly or indirectly, by words or circumstances, they would discover the purpose they had taken to any whomsoever, nor would desist from performing the same, without leave from their associates. This done, Percy was appointed to hire a house, close adjoining to the upper House of Parliament, for their more safe and secret working of their mine designed for the powder. Which being obtained, and one Guy Fawks, a desperate ruffian, appointed to be the man, about Christmas, in the year 1604, they began their Work with great labour and difficulty, in digging through a vast thick wall, and had several intermissions, by reason of the prorogation of the Parliament from the seventh of February to the third of October, and then to the fifth of November. About Candlemas they had almost wrought

their mine through the wall, when suddenly they heard a noise in the next room, which threw them into a great consternation; but sending Guy Fawks to find out the occasion, he brought word, that it was a cellar where sea-coals had been laid, which were now under sale, and the room offered to be let for a yearly rent. This room being directly under the Parliament-House, was immediately hired by Mr. Percy, who brought thirty-six barrels of Gunpowder from Lambeth in the night, and placing them in this cellar, covered them over with great quantities of sea-coal, billets, and faggots.

The first part of the Plot being thus carried on, it now remained to consider what was to be done when the fatal blow should be given. Percy undertook to secure the Duke of York; and for surprising the Lady Elizabeth, they agreed upon a hunting-match at Dunsmore Heath, where, under a colour of sport, they might draw people together, and secure her at Lord Harrington's House in Warwickshire, where she then resided. As to money and horses, Digby made offer of fifteen hundred pounds, Tresham of two hundred, and Percy promised to bring all he could gather from his Northumberland rents, which he thought would amount to four thousand pounds, and to provide ten horses for his share. Then they agreed to save as many catholics from going to the House as they could with conveniency. Next it was determined, that no foreign Princes should be acquainted with their design; but for aid after the work was done, they might have time to apply themselves to France, Spain, or Flanders. Lastly, they resolved to proclaim the lady Elizabeth Queen; to which purpose they had a Proclamation formed, in which no mention was made of altering the Religion, because they wanted sufficient forces; and till they could sufficiently strengthen their party, they would not acknowledge the fact to be theirs, but endeavour to charge it on the puritans.

Thus all things were concerted, and seemed to promise success to the conspirators, when about ten days before the meeting of the Parliament, lord Monteagle was surprised with a letter from an unknown person to this effect;

My Lord,

“Out of the love I bear to some of your friends, I have a care of your preservation; therefore I would wish you, as you tender your life, to forbear your attendance at this Parliament; for God and man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this advertisement; for though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say they shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurt them. This counsel is not to be contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm; for the danger is past as soon as you have burnt this letter.”

I hope God will give you grace to make use of it, to whose holy protection I commend you.

Lord Monteagle, astonished at this letter, though he understood it not, thinking there might be something in it of dangerous concern, communicated it to the earl of Salisbury, and some others of the King's Council. Salisbury could not find out the riddle; but concluded him either a fool or a madman that wrote it. The King was at this time hunting at Royston; and as soon as he came to Whitehall, the earl of Salisbury showed him the letter, who, considering it circumspectively, said, this is no madman's writing; and concluded, that by the expression, “they shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet shall not see who hurt them,” some sudden danger was meant, such as blowing up by powder. Hereupon, the day before the Parliament was to meet, he commanded the earl of Suffolk, lord Chamberlain, to make a strict search about the Parliament-House;

who, accompanied by Lord Monteagle, entered the cellar under the house, which he found stuffed with billets, faggots, and coal; and close by, in a corner of the cellar, stood Fawks, with a ghastly aspect, who being questioned, said he was Percy's servant. The lord Chamberlain would make no stir at that time, but left things as he found them, taking no further notice; but apprehending just cause to have the cellars further searched. The King with his Council advising what to do, resolved on a further search that night, committing the trust to sir Thomas Knevet, a man of approved fidelity; who, with a retinue suitable to such an enterprise, coming to the cellar about midnight, met Fawks at the door, in a cloak and boots, on whom he presently seized; and searching him found about him a watch, a dark lantern, and three matches, and other instruments for putting his wicked design in execution at the exact juncture of time. On a further search they detected the whole contrivance, having found thirty-six barrels of Gunpowder under the billets. Fawks seeing all discovered, confessed the design, and was only sorry it came not to perfection, saying, God would have concealed it, and the devil only discovered it. Being examined by the Lords of the Council, he could have little drawn from him, only he said again, he was sorry it was not done. But the rest of the conspirators revealed themselves, for they presently marched to Dunsmore to the hunting match, breaking open some stables in London, and taking out divers horses of noblemen, that were put into rider's hands to manage, thinking to make a great party; but the high-sheriffs of Warwickshire and Worcestershire pursued them so, that they were forced to betake themselves to Littleton's house at Halbach; where Percy and Catesby, desperately sallying out, where both slain; as were also John Wright, and Christopher Wright; Thomas Winter; and the rest, were taken, and committed to the Tower of London.

The King met his Parliament upon Sunday the ninth of November, and made a long and remarkable speech to them; in which having aggravated the danger by many circumstances, and as much magnified the mercy of God in the deliverance, when he mentioned the trial and punishment of the offenders, he was observed to retain an excellent temper in his discourse, wishing that no innocent person, either domestic or foreign, might thereby receive any hurt. Having finished his speech, without further business, he prorogued the Parliament to the 21st day of January 1606.

This prodigious contrivance did not only amaze the whole kingdom, but foreign princes made their wonderment also; and though, for the propagation of the catholic cause, they might have conscience enough to wish it had taken effect, yet they had policy enough to congratulate the discovery; and some of them, to take off all suspicion, sweetened their expressions with many rich Gifts and presents to the King and Queen. And now his Majesty was not unmindful of Lord Monteagle, but as a reward of his good services, gave to him and his heirs for ever, two hundred pounds a year in fee farm rents, and five hundred pounds a year besides, during his life.

On the 21st day of January the Parliament met again; and six days after, a commission was directed to several Lords and Judges of both benches, for the trial of the several conspirators, who were all fairly convicted and condemned to die; and accordingly on Thursday following, sir Everard Digby, Robert Winter, Grant, and Bates, were drawn, hanged, and quartered, at the West end of St. Paul's; and on the next day Thomas Winter, Keys, Rookwood, and Fawks were in the same manner executed in the Parliament-Yard at Westminster. Not long after Henry Garnet, provincial of the English Jesuits, was arraigned at

Guildhall, for concealing and promoting the aforesaid treason; and being condemned, he was drawn from the Tower to the west end of St. Paul's, and there hanged and quartered. At his death he acknowledged his crime, begged forgiveness, and exhorted all catholics never to attempt any treason against the King or State, as a method to which God would never give success. Besides these who were executed, some others were brought into trouble; Henry lord Mordant, and Edward lord Sturton, not coming to the Parliament according to their Writ of Summons, were suspected to have knowledge of the conspiracy; and so was the earl of Northumberland from some presumptions; and all three were committed to the Tower. The two Barons, after some imprisonment, were redeemed by fine in the Star Chamber; but the earl continued a prisoner there for many years after.

In commemoration of the discovery of the aforesaid Plot, the 5th of November has always been distinguished, by public rejoicings, the firing of the Tower guns, holidays at public offices, bonfires, exhibitions of fireworks, ringing of bells, &c. throughout England.









