

## **[Letter from John Howard to the Duke of Roxburghe].**

### **Contributors**

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Roxburghe, John Ker, Duke of, approximately 1680-1741.

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To the Duke of Roxburg.

Guldeford. Nov. 9. 1726

my Lord Duke

The following is true, as it will be testified upon oath by several witness. One Mary Tost aged 23 has had 3 children. She is the wife of John Tost, a poor journeyman Clothier in the parish of Godliman, being five weeks gone with child the 23 of Ap. 1726 was weeding of wheat near that town with three other woman up left a rabbit, this deponent and one of the woman run after it but could not catch it. So they return'd to there work again, about a quarter of an hour after they put up an other rabbit, then that deponent and two of the woman run after it a pretty while but it got away, after it was gone this deponent said if they had not been fools they might a got it, one of the woman said to this deponent. I believe you long for or has a mind to one of the rabbits, but she said with concernment if she did not, this run in this deponent head all that day, if she had but caught one of the rabbits, she could eat it. When used she dreamt that she saw abundance of Rabbits, and could not get them out of her head, the next morning about six o'clock she got up, and went to the same field in hopes of finding a rabbit in the place where she put them up, she put a bow as a mark to find the place, with her hat in her hand in hopes of covering the Rabbits but finding none she was very much concerned all if day she could not get them out of her mind, one of the rabbit was gray and if other blackish with Black one was usual in her thoughts. She dreamt of them for a quarter of a year the 27 of Sept. last I deliver'd her



of a black rabbit, full grown the lungs and heart  
grow's without the body joining to the lower part  
of the neck, it had three cats feet, and one rabbits  
foot, Cats guts, and out of one of the guts I cut out  
three Vertebres of an Eel, I have since deliver'd this  
woman of ten rabbit, they were all alive before  
they was deliver'd, the last leapt 23 hours before  
it died, as soon as one dyes an other leaps up,  
the twelfth Rabbitt I believe I shall take from her  
about six o'clock, I have eleven of them in spirits  
when its over I shall give the Royal Society a  
full account, I cannot tell how long before these  
rabbits will adone coming away, if she had  
been with child she has but ten days to go

I am your Graces  
most humble and  
Obedient Ser<sup>t</sup>  
to Com<sup>d</sup>  
John Howard.