

that ran among the *Venetians*, that *the Lady Superba was the haughtiest and most insolent Woman in the Republic*. And indeed this Adventure (adds *Historicus*) is one of the most remarkable Instances of Pride that ever appear'd on the Theatre of Nature; neither was it ever exceeded, as far as I am inform'd by History, except only by the proud and malevolent Spirit of the infernal Prince.

*From the Gentleman's Magazine for November, 1745. To show what Detestation all true Protestants ought to have of the Popish Religion, we here insert the following Account of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquisition at Lisbon, against Elizabeth Vasconcellos an Englishwoman, in the Year 1706 attested by her before Joseph Wilcocks, Esq; then Consul there.*

**E**LIZABETH VASCONCELLOS, a Subject of the Queen of England, born in Arlington in the County of Devon, and Daughter of John Chelter, Esq; was bred up in the Doctrine of the Church of England, and liv'd in the said Town till the Eleventh Year of her Age; at which Time her Uncle, David Morgan, of Cork in Ireland, intending to go to Jamaica, and settle there as a Practitioner in Physic desired her Father to let her go with him, and he would provide for her; which her Father having several other Children consented to do. They took their Passage on board an English Merchant Ship in the Year 1685; and when they got near to the Island of Madeira, were attacked by Two Turkish Ships, and had a sharp Engagement, in which many of the English were kill'd, and amongst the rest her Uncle; but the Turks being forced to bear away, the Ship arriv'd safe at the Island of Madeira, and she being wholly destitute applied her self to the English residing there, and was taken into the House of Mr. Peckford, a Merchant of that Place, with whom and some others she liv'd as a Servant, till the Year 1696, when she was married, by a Chaplain of an English Man of War, to Manuel Cardoso de Vasconcellos, a Physician of the Island, with whom she liv'd eight Years, without ever conforming herself in the least, either before or after her Marriage, to the Romish Church. But in the Year 1704, in the Time of Lent, her Husband being gone a Voyage to Brazil, she fell dangerously ill, and being light-headed, the Parish Priest came into her House, and gave her the Sacrament; as she was told afterwards, for she remember'd nothing of it. When she was recover'd and well, they told her that she had turn'd her Religion, and must conform to the Romish Church; but she declar'd she never had done it to her Knowledge, nor never would. Hereupon she was prosecuted by the Bishop of the Island and imprison'd seven Months, at the End of which Term she was sent a Prisoner to the Inquisition at Lisbon, where she arriv'd December 17, 1704. After two Days she was brought ashore, being conducted by two Familiars to the Inquisition, and was immediately had before the Secretary of the House, who took an Account of her Effects, which in Plate, Goods and Money, were above 500 l. Sterling Value; all which being register'd, two Women were appointed to search her, who took from her what Rings and other Things of Value were about her; after which, being put to her Oath that that was all she was worth in the World, she was led into the Prison, which was a very strait dark ground Room about five Feet square, and was kept in it nine Months and fifteen Days. For the first Nine Days they allow'd her nothing but Bread and Water, and a wet straw Bed to lie upon. On the ninth Day she was brought before the Inquisitors, and examin'd concerning her Religion. She told them she was a Protestant, and would continue so, but they oppos'd her

had conform'd to the Romish Church, by receiving the Sacrament at the Island of Madeira, and that she must either persist in it or burn. After this she was order'd back to Prison, and after a Month's Time was brought out again, and being questioned as before, and making the same Answer, they bound her Hands behind her, stripp'd her Back naked, and lash'd her with a Whip of knotted Cords a considerable Time; and told her afterwards that she must kneel down to the Court and give Thanks for the merciful Usage of her, which she positively refused to do.

After fifteen Days she was brought forth and examin'd, and a Crucifix being set before her, she was commanded to bow down to it and worship it, which she refusing to do, they told her she must expect to be condemn'd to the Flames, and burnt with the Jews the next *Auto da Fe*, which was night at hand; and upon this she was remanded to her Prison for thirty Days, and being then brought out, a red hot Iron was got ready and brought to her in a Chafing-dish of burning Coals, and her Breast being laid open, the Executioner, with one End of the red hot Iron, which was about the bigness of a large Seal, burnt her to the Bone in three several Places on the right Side, one hard by the other, and then sent her to her Prison without any Plaster or any other Application to heal the Sores, which were very painful to her. A Month after this she had another severe Whipping as before; and in the beginning of August she was brought before the Table again, a great Number of Inquisitors being present, and was questioned whether she would profess the Romish Religion or burn; she replied she had always been a Protestant, and was a Subject to the Queen of England, who was able to protect her, and she doubted not would do it, were her Condition known to the English residing at Lisbon; but as she knew nothing of that, her Resolution was to continue a Protestant, though she were burnt for it. To this they answer'd, that her being the Queen of England's Subject signified nothing in the Dominions of the King of Portugal; that the English residing at Lisbon were Heretics, and would certainly be damned; and that it was the Mercy of that Tribunal to endeavour to rescue her out of the Flames of Hell; but if her Resolution were to burn rather than profess the Romish Religion, they would give her a Trial of it before-hand. Accordingly the Officers were order'd to seat her, in a six'd Chair, and to bind her Arms and Legs that she could make no Resistance or Motion, and a Physician being placed by her to direct the Court how far they might torture without Hazard of Life, her left Foot was made bare, and an Iron Slipper red-hot being immediately brought in, her Foot was fasten'd into it, which continued on, burning to the Bone, till such time as by Extremity of Pain she fainted away, and the Physician declaring her Life was in danger, they took it off, and order'd her again to her Prison. On the 19th of August she was again brought out and whipp'd, after a cruel manner, till her Back was all over torn; and being threaten'd with more and greater Tortures, and on the other hand promis'd to be set at Liberty, if she would subscribe such a Paper as they should give her, tho' she could have undergone Death, yet not being able to endure such a Life of so much Misery, she consented to subscribe as they would have her, and accordingly as she was directed wrote at the bottom of a large Paper, which contain'd she knew not what. After which they advis'd her to avoid the Company of all English Heretics, and not restoring any thing of the Plate, Goods or Money, she brought with her, and engaging her by Oath to keep secret all that had been done to her, turn'd her out of Doors, destitute of all Relief, but from the Help and Compassion of Charitable Christians.

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