

he prayed GOD to pardon them : when, perhaps I was at my Sports and Plays.---He wish'd me well, and hoped that I should be better advised, and said that he should call for me in a little Time : Thus he dismiss'd and never call'd me to Confession more.

Of a Jesuit's  
Ceremony to  
break up the  
Haunt of  
Black Birds.

The Gentleman whom I lived with had a fine Field of Whear, which great numbers of Black Birds, visited ; and destroy'd much of. But the French said a Jesuit would come and banish them ; who came at length, and all things were prepared, viz. a Bason of, what they call, Holy-Water, ; a Staff with a little Brush to 'sprinkle withal, & the Jesuit's white Robe, which he put on. [ I ask'd several Prisoners, who had lately been taken by Privateers and brought hither, viz. Mr. Woodberry, Cocks, & Morgan, whether they would go and see the Ceremony ? Mr. Woodberry ask'd me, whether I designed to go ? I told him that I did. He said, that I was then as bad a Papist as they, and a d--n'd Fool. I told him that I believ'd as little of it as they did, but I inclined to see the Ceremony, that I might rehearse it to the English.] They entred the Field and walk'd through the Wheat in Proceßion, a young Lad going before the Jesuit with a Bason of their Holy-Water ; then the Jesuit with his Brush, dipping it into the Bason, and sprinkling the Field on each side of him ; next him a little Bell tingling, and about thirty Men following in order, Singing, with the Jesuit, *Ora pro Nobis* ; at the End of the Field they Wheel'd to the Left about, and return'd. Thus they went through the Field of Whear, the Birds rising before them and lighting behind them. At their return I said to a French Lad ; The Fryar hath done no Service, --He had better take a Gun and shoot the Birds. The Lad left me a while (I tho't, to ask the Jesuit what to say) and when he returned, he said, the Sins of the People were so great, that the Fryar could not prevail against those Creatures. The same Jesuit as vainly attempted to banish the Muschetoes at *Sigenetto*, for the Sins of that People were so great also, that he could not prevail against them, but rather drew more : as the French inform'd me !

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