THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE MERRY DEUILL OF EDMONTON

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The Life and Death of the Merry Deuill of Edmonton by T. B.

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Trieste

THE

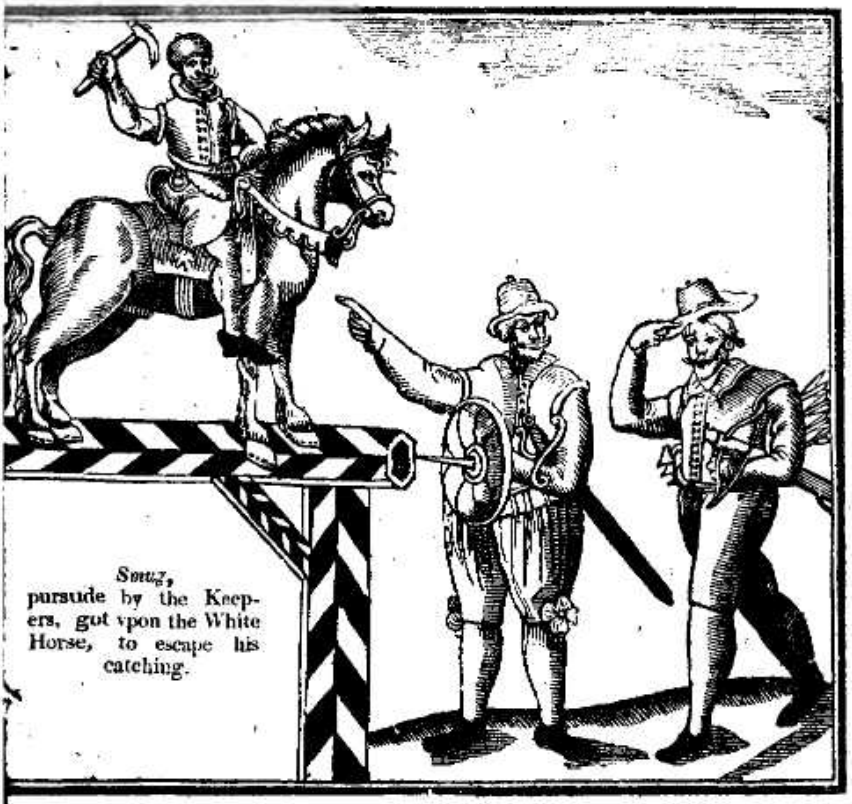
Life and Death

OF THE

MERRY DEUILL OF EDMONTON.

WITH THE PLEASANT PRANKS OF SMUG THE SMITH,
SIR JOHN, AND MINE HOST OF THE GEORGE,
ABOUT THE STEALING OF VENISON.

By T. B.



Smug, pursude by the Keepers, got vpon the White Horse, to escape his catching.

LONDON:

PRINTED IN THE BLACK LETTER, BY [illegible], FOR FRANCIS FAULKNER,
DWELLING OVER AGAINST ST. MARGARET'S HILL,
IN SOUTHWARK, 1631.

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SMUG'S GHOST.

WHEN with ayrie essence sempiterne
You might a body (now in dust discerne),
I was of many set by for my mirth;
Good company I lou'd with all my heart
And like a boone companion playde my part:
(It was fore-spoken at my houre of birth.)

Hart-eating sorrow nere with me remainde
While I your shape as I have said retainde,
My cogitations were all ayrie, light:
I neare lou'd hoorder, nor the hoording sinne,
That coyne my labour brought me one day in,
I spent in pleasure ere the next daies night.

Mad Maister *Peter*, and my red fac'd *Host*,
My dapper *Parson*, whom of all I most
Entirely loued for his merry vaine;
And *Bancks* the miller, that poore thin cheek'd knaue,
That holpe to beare my body to the graue,
Were men of mettle; of a perfect straine.

These men and I, made up a matchlesse crew,
For merry meetings till the ground look'd blew,
Wee'd sit and send our soaking healths about,
Weed sometime theeve together in the darke,
To fetch a feast of venison from the Parcke.

Then grant my ghost this, though our bones be rotten,
Our names may liue and neuer be forgotten.

THE

LIFE AND DEATH

OF THE

MERRY DEUILL OF EDMONTON.

The Introduction; with a description of Maister Peter Fabell.

MAISTER *Peter Fabell*, otherwise called "The Merry Deuill of Edmonton" (for the many excellent ieasts he did) was a man of good discent: and a man, either for his gifts externall, or internall, inferior to few. For his person he was absolute. Nature had neuer showne the fulnesse of her skill, more in any then in him. For the other, I meane his great learning (including many misteries) hee was as amply blest as any.

Very pleasant, kinde, and free-hearted was hee to or with his familiars: very affable, and curteous to strangers, and very liberal, full of commisseration and

* Peter Fabell. "Here (i. e. at Edmonton) lieth interred under a seemelie tombe without Inscription the Body of *Peter Fabell* (as the report goes) upon whom this Fable was fathered, that he by his wittie devises beguiled the Devill: belike he was some ingenious conceited Gent^n. who did use some fleightie tricks for his owne disports."—See Weever's Funeral Monuments, fol. 1631, p. 514; and Norden's *Speculum Britannia*, Middlesex, p. 18.