

Primary Source: Witchcraft in Salem

Burr, George Lincoln, 1857-1938. "Letter of Thomas Brattle, F. R. S., 1692"; from *Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648-1706*
Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library

First, as to the method which the Salem Justices do take in their examinations, it is truly this: A warrant being issued out to apprehend the persons that are charged and complained of by the afflicted children, (as they are called); said persons are brought before the Justices, (the afflicted being present.) The Justices ask the apprehended why they afflict those poor children; to which the apprehended answer, they do not afflict them. **The Justices order the apprehended to look upon the said children, which accordingly they do; and at the time of that look, (I dare not say by that look, as the Salem Gentlemen do) the afflicted are cast into a fitt. The apprehended are then blinded, and ordered to touch the afflicted; and at that touch, tho' not by the touch, (as above) the afflicted ordinarily do come out of their fitts.** The afflicted persons then declare and affirm, that the apprehended have afflicted them; upon which the apprehended persons, tho' of never so good repute, are forthwith committed to prison, on suspicion for witchcraft.

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Mather, Cotton. *The Wonders of the Invisible World*, 1693. Printed first, at Boston in New-England; and Reprinted at London, for John Dunton, at the Raven and in the Poultry, 1693

The New-Englanders are a people of God settled in those, which were once the Devil's territories; and it may easily be supposed that the Devil was exceedingly disturbed, when he perceived such a people here accomplishing the promise of old made unto our blessed Jesus, That He should have the utmost parts of the earth for his possession.