

A Ranter

Non-Specific Humans A weak brother Hypocrite A Prodigy Christians

Proper Names Nero

Mythological Figures Hector Devils Angels the "old man" Saint

Animals Monster Bulls Wild Beasts

[two rules]

A RANTER

I²s a Fanatic Hector, that has found out by a very ftrange Way of new Light, how to transform all the Devils into Angels of Light ; for he believes all Religion confits in Loofenefs, and that Sin and Vice is the whole Duty of Man. He puts off the old Man, but puts it on again upon the new one, and makes his Pagan Vices ferve to preserve his Christian Virtues from wearing out ; for if he should use his Piety and Devotion al- ways it would hold out but a little while. He is loth that Iniquity and Vice should be thrown away, as long as there may be good Use of it ; for if that, which is wickedly gotten, may be difposed to pious Ufes, why should not Wickednefs itself as well? He believes himself Shot-free againft all the Attempts of the Devil, the World, and the Flesh, and therefore is not afraid to attack them in their own Quarters, and encounter them at their own Weapons.

For as ftrong Bodies may freely venture to do, and fuffer that, without any Hurt to themselves, which would deftroy thofe that are feeble: So a Saint, that is ftrong in Grace, may boldly engage himself in thofe great Sins and Iniquities, that would eafily damn a weak Brother, and yet come off never the worfe. He believes Deeds of Darknefs to be only thofe Sins that are committed in private, not thofe that are acted openly and owned. He is but an Hypocrite turned the wrong Side outward ; for, as the one wears his Vices within, and the other without, fo when they are counter-

changed the Ranter becomes an Hypocrite, and the Hypocrite an able Ranter. His Church is the Devil's Chappel ; for it agrees exactly both in Doctorine and Difcipline with the best reformed Baudy-Houfes. He is a Monfter produced by the Madnefs of this latter Age ; but if it had been his Fate to have been whelped in old Rome he had paf for a Prodigy, and been received among raining of Stones and the fpeaking of Bulls, and would have put a ftop to all public Affairs, until he had been expiated. Nero cloathed Chriftians in the Skins of wild Beafes ; but he wraps wild Beafes in the Skins of Chriftians.
