



Child of Satan

Extract from "The Schornian" parish magazine, written by Rev Samuel James

12th October 1875

"Died, a woman who was formerly one of the most desperately and deplorably wicked women that ever led souls to ruin, and whose history was a history of the vilest and most awful character. Her vicar was with her five minutes before death, and her last sentence but one was one of assent to and gratitude for his prayers and exhortations. This record, though it will strike strangers as undesirable, is very advisedly and solemnly set down. Years ago, hopes and opportunities of amendment were defiantly thrown away, and if some sad and terrible things could be added, our tale would seem too awful to be true; it is nevertheless all fact. Mrs S. Faulkner, then Miss Betsy Ward, and her brother, made most praiseworthy efforts, from among the Wesleyans, to arrest the downhill course of what seemed to be a soul hurrying to ruin; but they failed, as all else may have failed, for aught that man can tell. If mercy did really come to that dark soul, then it (the soul) will have to bear, at the Judgement Day, at least some looks of reproach from young men and young women for temptation put in their way. And this, dreadful to say, was almost her lightest crime. Whether she died in Northmarston (sic), or in a parish where our magazine circulates, need not be particularised; which implies that we dared not omit one word of what has been written. But that it is written only for the admonition of the living, the living, who knew this once child of Satan."