

“For the Better Satisfaction of the Christian and Curious Reader”: Visual Tropes and the Rhetoric of Atrocity Representing the 1655 Massacre of the Piedmont Protestants

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Morland, 1658, *HECVP*, 359.



Ford Madox Brown: 1877, *Cromwell, Protector of the Vaudois*



SAMUEL MORLANDIVS, SEK. D.
GALLIÆ DVCEMQ, SABAVDIA
INTERVENTVS. ET DEINDE



PROTECTORIS. AD REGEM
DE REBUS VALLENSIVM
EXTRA ORDINE COMMISSARIVS

THE HISTORY OF The Evangelical Churches Of the VALLEYS of PIEMON T.

CONTAINING
A most exact *Geographical* Description of the Place, and
a faithfull Account of the Doctrine, Life, and Persecutions of
the Ancient Inhabitants.

TOGETHER,
With a most naked and punctual Relation of the late
BLOODY MASSACRE, 1655. And a Narrative of
all the following Transactions, to the Year of Our L O R D,
1658.

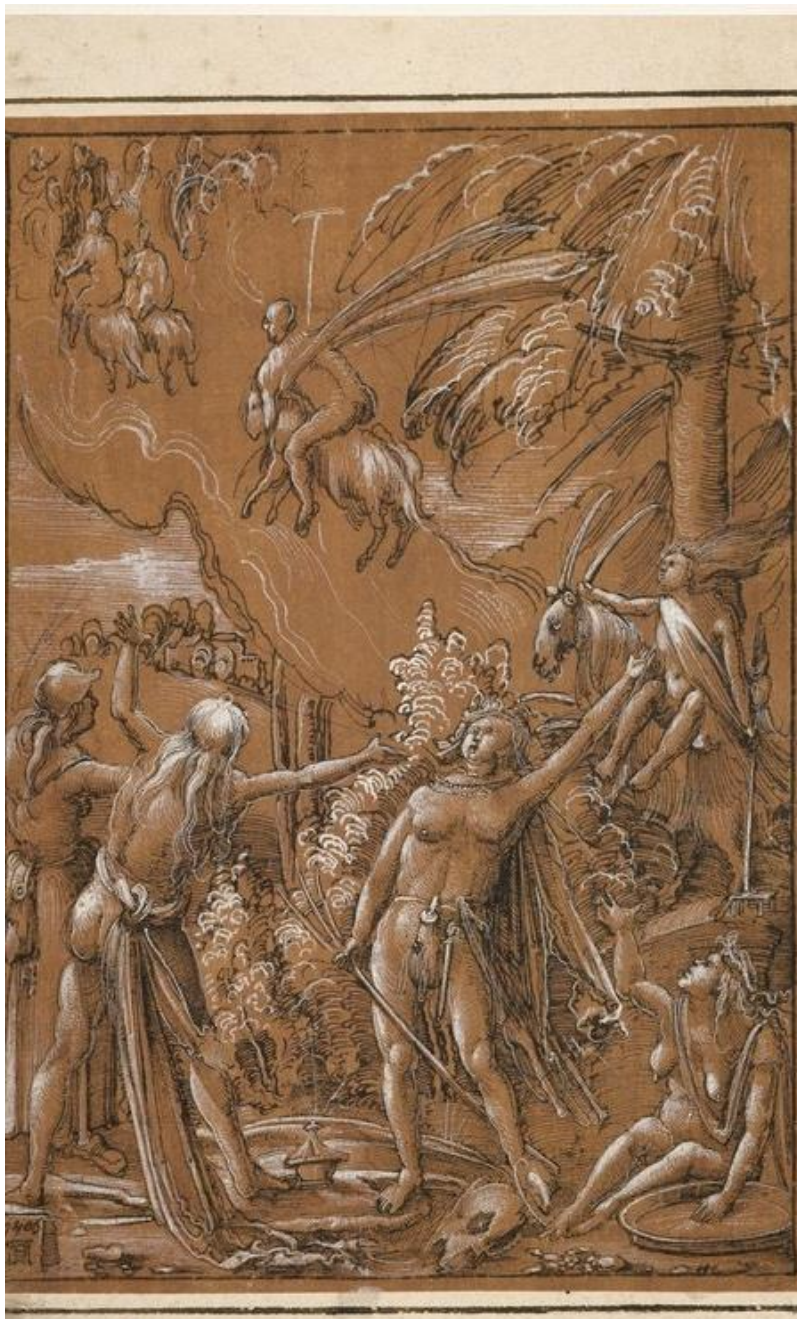
All which are justified, partly by divers Ancient *Manuscripts*
written many hundred Years before CALVIN or LUTHER, and
partly by other most Authentick Attestations: The true
Originals of the greatest part whereof, are to be seen in their proper Languages
by all the curious, in the Publick Library of the famous University
of CAMBRIDGE.

Collected and compiled with much pains and industry,
By **SAMUEL MORLAND, Esq;**
During his abode in Geneva, in quality of HIS
HIGHNESS *Commissioner Extraordinary* for the Affairs
of the said VALLEYS, and particularly for the
Distribution of the Collected Money, among the remnant of
those poor distressed People.

REVEL. 6. 9.

And when he had opened the fifth Seal, I saw under the Altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God,
and in their robes which they had: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long O Lord, wilt thou
tarry? How long wilt thou tarry? And when he had opened the sixth Seal, I saw another sign in the heaven, and the earth
troubled: and the sun became black as sackcloth, the moon bloody, and the stars fell from heaven, and the mountains and
islands were moved, and the sea was troubled, and the kings of the earth were astonished, and they hid themselves in the caves
and in the rocks, and said, Woe unto them that dwell on the earth, when the Lord shall visit them, for the day of his wrath is come,
and he will visit them, and will destroy them, and will destroy all flesh, and will destroy all flesh, and will destroy all flesh.

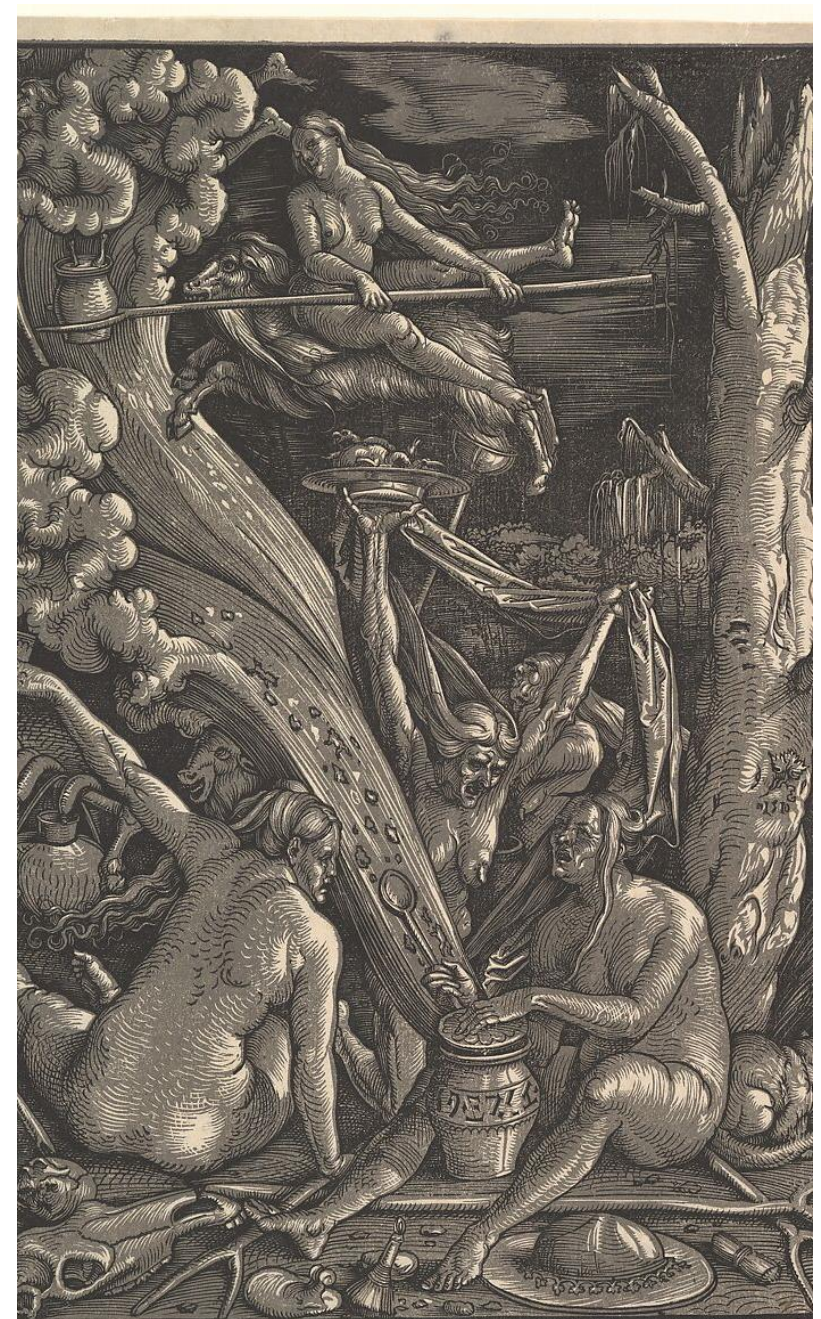
Printed by *Henry Hills*, one of His Highness's Printers, for *A. Donnan*
byfield, and are to be sold at the three Bibles in Cornhill, next to Popes-head
Alley, 1658.



Albrecht Altdorfer, *Witches Departing for the Sabbath*, 1506, Musée du Louvre, 18867



Albrecht Dürer, *A Witch Riding Backwards on a Goat*, c. 1500, British Museum, 1868, 0822.188



Hans Baldung Grien, *The Witches*, 1510, The Met, 41.1.201

Tropes of Atrocity

- **Asymmetry**
 - The vast power imbalance between the oppressor and the oppressed.
 - The elements of surprise or other exercises of some unique feature of advantage.
- **Representation of siege or invasion**
 - Both territorially, physically, and spiritually
- **Political utility**
 - Propagandistic or polemical
- **Capitulation**
 - of the civil authority to the wishes of the Church or some other corrupting influence
 - Specifically in Protestant polemics
- **Extreme sexual violence**
 - Genital mutilation (female, male, and child)
 - Accounts of rape, sodomy, and paedophilia
- **Cannibalism**
- **Genocidal violence**
 - Violence against women and children



François Dubois, La masacre de San Bartolomé, c. 1584, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts



Giotto di Bondone, 1305



Guido Reni, 1611



Nicolas Poussin, c.1628

The massacre of the Innocents, a trope depicting events from the Gospel of Matthew



Poussin, *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1630, Musée Condé



Poussin, *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1630, Musée du Petit Palais



Poussin, The Destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem, 1637, Kunsthistorisches Museum



Poussin, *The Abduction of the Sabine Women*, 1634, The Met



Hieronymus Bosch, The Garden of Earthly Delights, c. 1510, Museo del Prado



Bruegel the Elder, Massacre of the Innocents



C. 1655, Christine of France, Dowager Duchess of Savoy and Regent



c. 1675, *Ritrato di Carlo Emanuele II di Savoia*



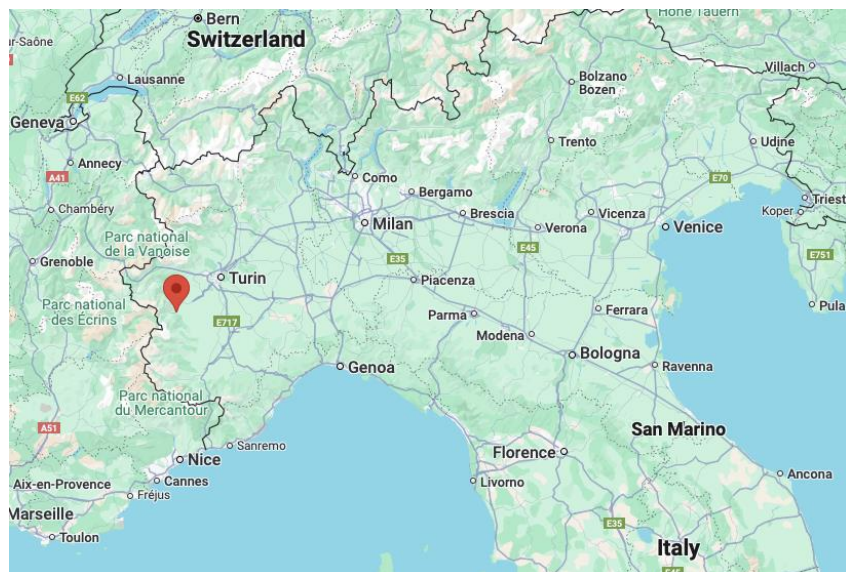
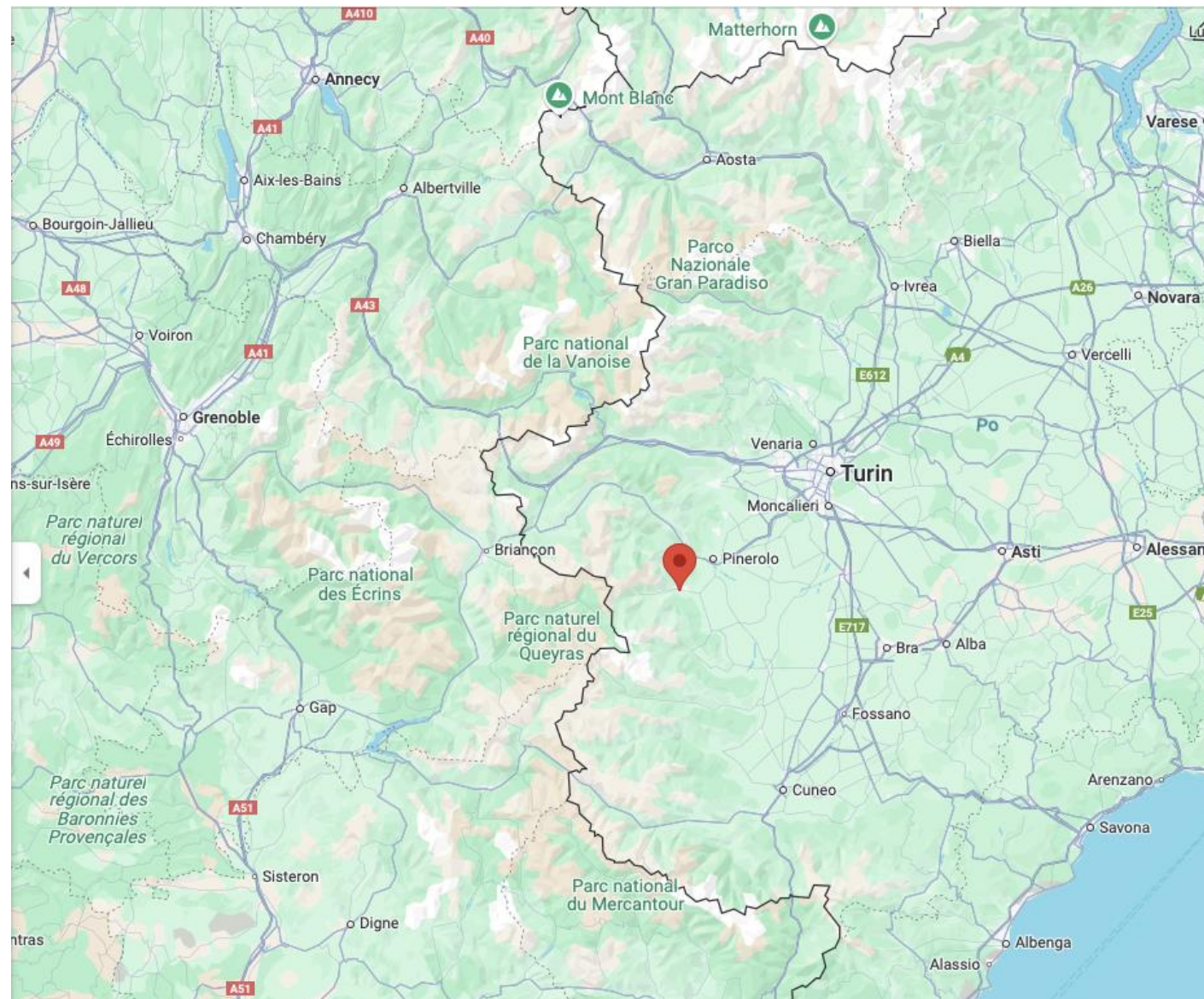
Petrus Waldus
aus Lyon; lebte um's Jahr 1100; aus dem Lutherdenkmal von Rietschel.

19th C. woodcut engraving of Peter Waldo based on a sculpture by Ernst Rietschel (1804–61). The statue features four proto-Protestants as a part of the Luther Monument in Worms, Germany



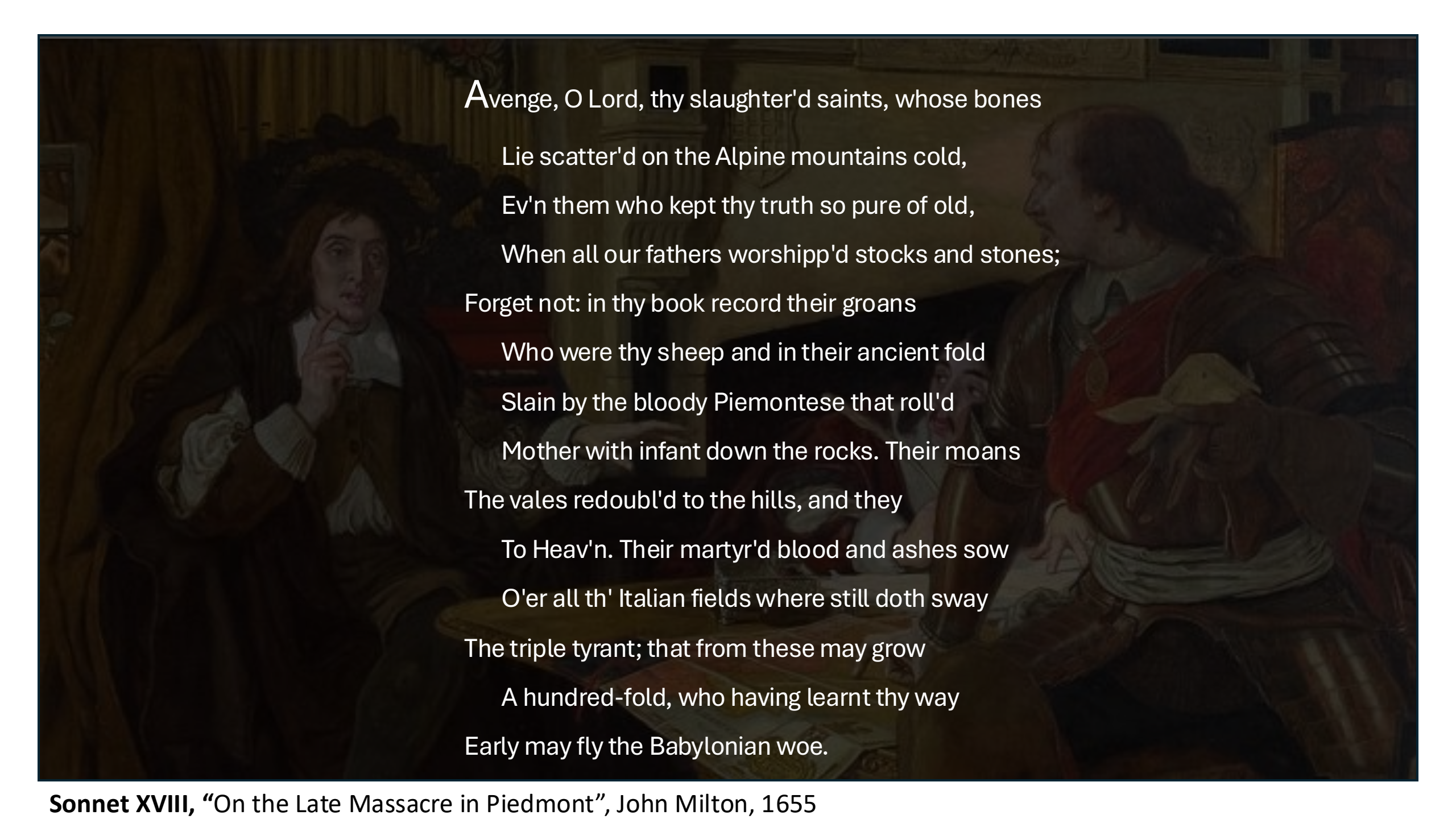
"Scars of the Reformation", Ely Cathedral (photo by the author)





Top left: Map of the “Waldensian Valleys” From *HECVP*.

Bottom left and centre right: Torre Pellice



Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughter'd saints, whose bones
Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains cold,
Ev'n them who kept thy truth so pure of old,
When all our fathers worshipp'd stocks and stones;
Forget not: in thy book record their groans
Who were thy sheep and in their ancient fold
Slain by the bloody Piemontese that roll'd
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans
The vales redoubl'd to the hills, and they
To Heav'n. Their martyr'd blood and ashes sow
O'er all th' Italian fields where still doth sway
The triple tyrant; that from these may grow
A hundred-fold, who having learnt thy way
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

Sartain, 19th C., "The Protector Dictating the Letter to the Duke of Savoy to Stop the Persecution of the Protestants of Piedmont, 1655



Content Warning

The next series of slides depict atrocious and graphic violence



Morland, 1658, *HECVP*, 359.





The Attestation of *Thomas Guiot* (Chirurgion) and *Francis Pras*, touching the boiling and eating of the Brains of some of the poor protestants during the heat of the Massacre in the Year 1655. Made the 7. Octob. 1655.

The true Original whereof is to be seen, together with the rest, in the publick Library of the famous University of
CAMBRIDGE.

WE whose Names are underwritten do certifie, that we being at *Pignerol*, upon the three and twentieth of April, in the Year 1655. (it being a Feast day and the Fair of *St. George*) heard a certain young man of *Cumiane*, who was lately come from the Valley of *Lucerna*, and from the War that had been in those parts, (where he had al-

Nous soussignez, certifions que nous estans trouvez à *Pinerol*, le vingtroisième d' *Auril*, de l'année 1655, jour de la feste, & soire de *St. George*, nous avons ovy un jeune homme de *Cumiane*, n'aguere venu de la *Vallee de Luzerne*, & de la guerre qu'on y faisoit, qui mesme estoit un peu blessé à la



The true Original whereof is to be seen, together with the rest,
in the publick Library of the famous University of
C A M B R I D G.



the lower part of her Belly, and ript her up to the Navel, and afterwards dragg'd the poor miserable Creature upon the ground, being half dead, till another of them came and severed her Head from her Body. The Daughter in Law to this



ÆSCVLAPII ORTVS













HECVP



Tears of Ireland



"Companies of the Rebels meeting with the English..."



"The Cruelties of The Cavaliers"



The Lamentations of Germany, 1638 also called the Teares of Germany



ael ex. Cum Privileg. Reg.

*infames et perdus ,
heureux a cet arbre pendus*

*Monstrent bien que le crime (horrible et noire engeance)
Est luy mesme instrument de honte et de vengeance ,*

*Et que cest le Destin des hommes vicieux
Desprouver tost ou tard la iustice des Cieux .*

...d the plot
...charged with
...powder &
...him took
...will not
...ill be on our



...a wall of sea:
...with letters
...num.



At one Mr Atkins house 7 Bayettes brake in & beate
out his brainer, then ripped up his wife with child
after they had ravished her & Nero like vowed natu-
rer bed of conception then tooke they the Child
and sacrificed it in the fire



Engls Protgantes striped naked & turned into
the mountain in the fresh & now, whereof many
hundreds are perished to death, & many living
dead in ditches & Sawages upbraided them saying,
now are ye wilde Irish as well as we.



S^t Patrike Dunsions Wiffe ranshed before him, flew his
Serrants, spurned his Children till they died bound him
with Rowlers of match to a board that his eyes burst out
out of his carer & nose teared off both his Cheekes after
cut of his armes & legges, cut out his tongue after rane
a red hot iron into him.



Dringing Men Women & children by hand:
red upon Briger & casting them into Rivers,
who drowned net were killed with pokes &
shot with muskets.



M^r Blandry Minister hanged after pulled his
flesh from his bones in his wiffers fight



The Lord Blany forced to ride 14 miles with-
out Brille or Saddle to save his life, his Lady
lodged in Straue being allowed 2^d a day
to releve her & her Children, flew a kindman
of hers and hanged him up before her face
2 dayes telling her she must expect the
same to terrifie her the moore.



M^r Dauenant and his Wiffe bound in their
Chaires striped the 2 Eldest Children of 7
yeares old rested upon Spittes before their
Parents faces Cutt their throats and after
murdered him.



Arthur Robinson do
Roberts bound her a
hor one after an other
pulled the haire from
tongue that she might
but she declared in



A Minister and his
1641 left behinde his
poted friend sent for
livered unlesse he
she came and profen



Images from *The
Teares of Ireland*,
1642 representing the
depositions of the
1641 Irish Rebellion

...ke her Conscience
...hot tongues
...feire & to the
...her that
...id.



...the Griddome
...re money war.



Hawing ravished Virgins & Wiffe they take
there children & daf there brainer against
the walls in sight of there weeping Parents
& after destroyed them likewise.



M^r Terome Minister of Brides his Body
mangled & his members cut of



The Prester & Igister anointe the Rebels with
there Sacrament of unction before they go to
murder & robe awhoring them that for there
meritorious Service if they be killed he shall
scape Purgatory & go to heaouen immediately.



They do usually nungell there dead Carcasses laying
Wagers who shall cut deepest into there dead
flesh with there Skerms.



Pulling them about the streete by the haire of
the head, dashing the Childrens brainer against
the postes sayinge there were the pigges of
the English Sower.



Drogheda so blockt up that a busshell of wheate
was sold for 23 Shill: & meate scarce to be
had at any rate. Jan: 1641



A Woman mangled in so horred a maner that it
was not possible, she should be knowne &
after the Villaine washed his handes in her
blood, was taken by the Troopers aduinged
to be hanged leaped of the ladder & haged
Himselfe like a Bloody Tiger.



Companyes of the Rebels meeting with the
English stringe for their lines: falling downe
before them crying for mercey thrust their
into their Childrens bellies & threw them into
the water.



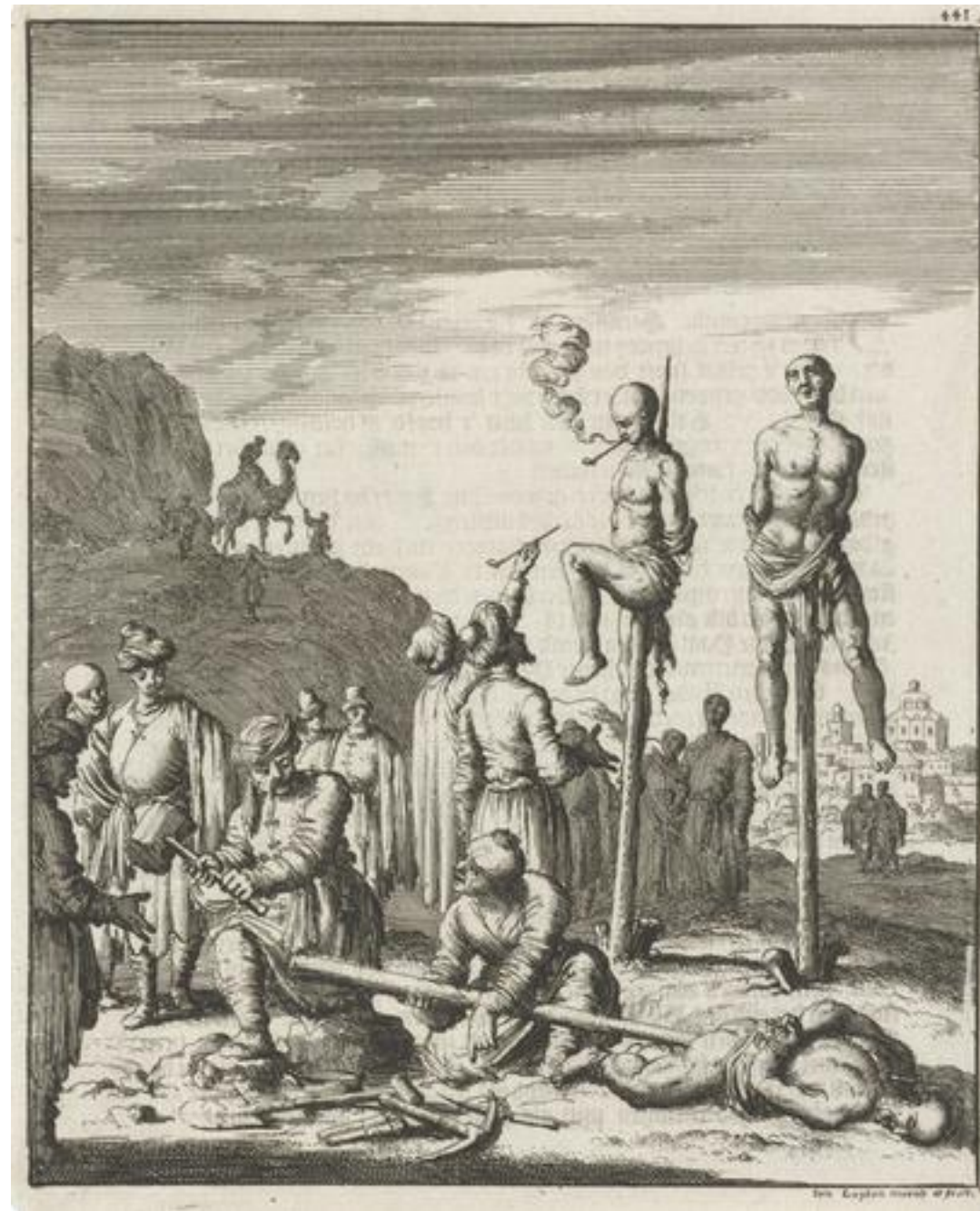
George Forde hanged
Cut his flesh a pease
saynge this is the right
our Holy Father the

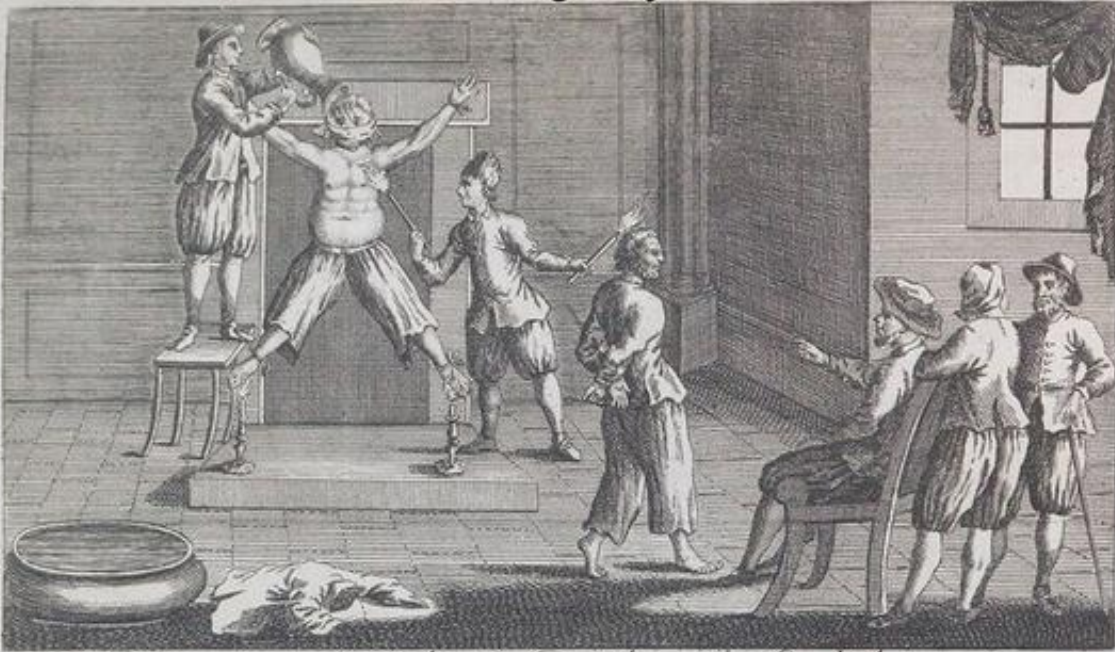


a Proclamation that net
either sell or keepe in the
the list of goods & life
except with a license &
most at 2 Shill: 6 p



Jan Luyken, 1681, Figures
impaled as punishment in Egypt
(Rijksmuseum)





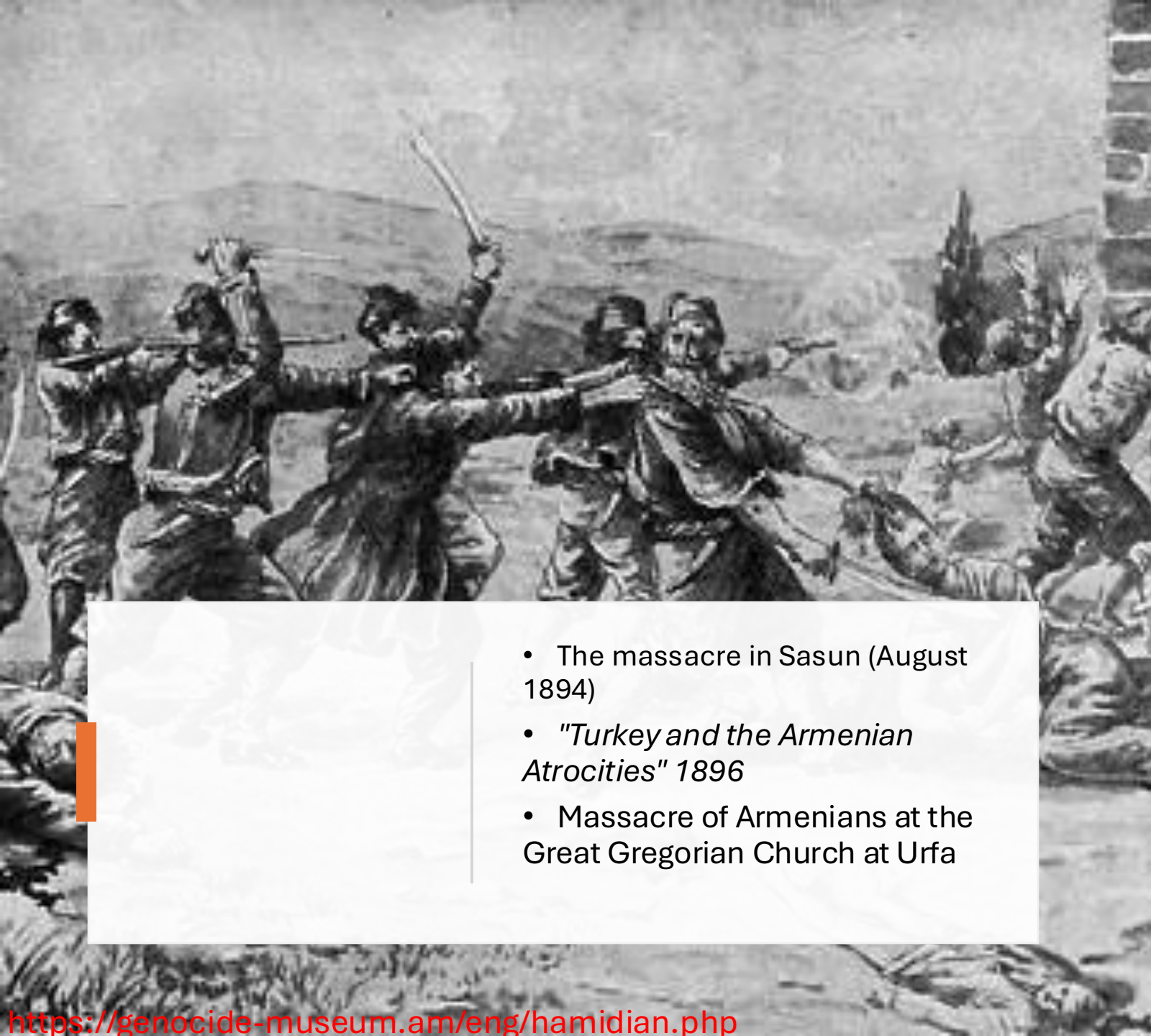
The Torments inflicted by the Dutch on the English in Amboyna.



The Condition of the English in the Dungeon, and their Execution.

The Torments inflicted by the Dutch on the English in Amboyna and The Condition of the English in the Dungeon, and their Execution.



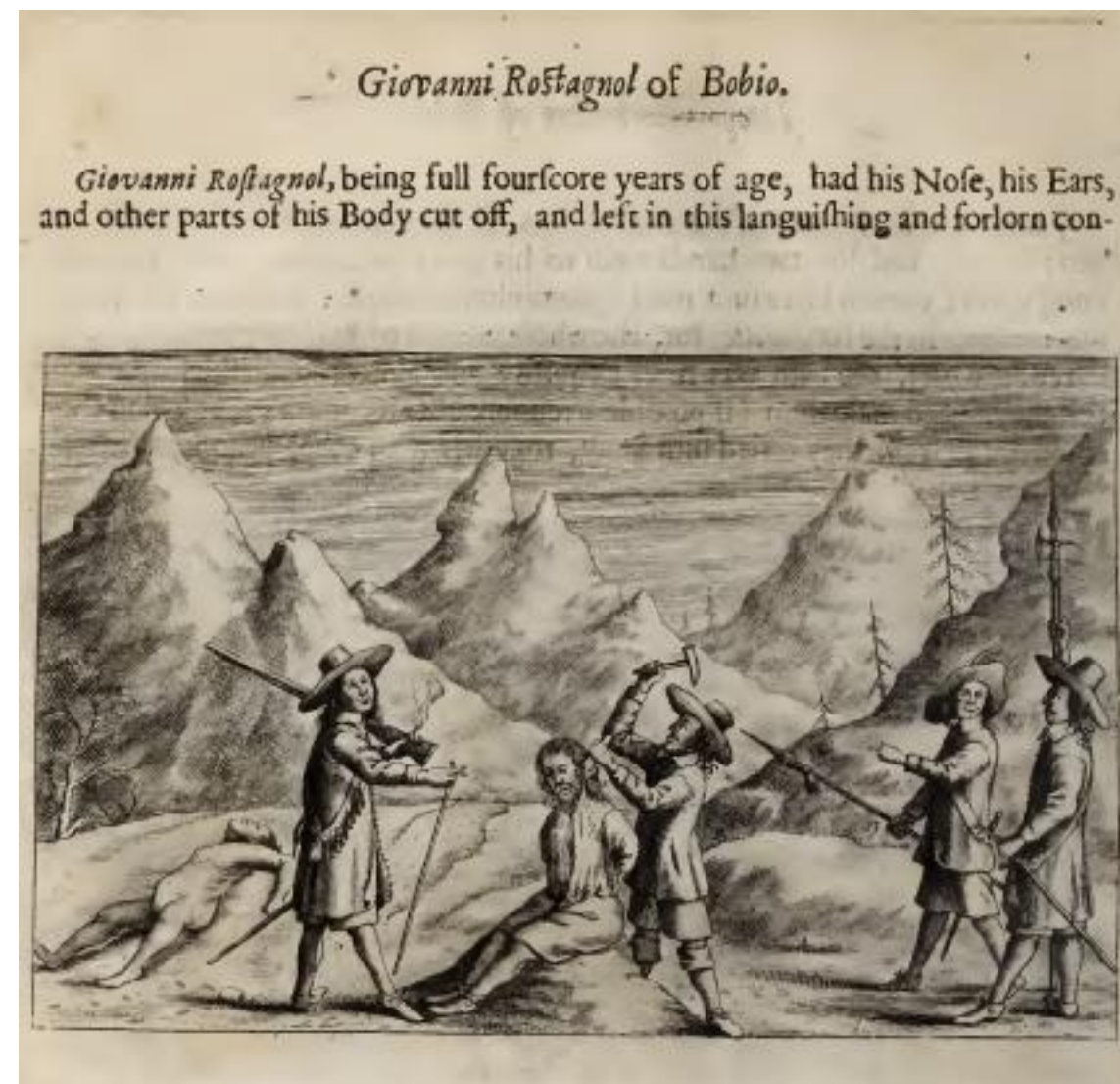


- The massacre in Sasun (August 1894)
- *"Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities" 1896*
- Massacre of Armenians at the Great Gregorian Church at Urfa





Lamentations of Germany



HECVP

Depictions of butchery



Teares of Ireland



HECVP

*Slaves ravished Virgins & Wives
 other take their Children & lay them
 against the Walls in sight of
 their weeping Parents & after destroy
 them likewise.*



*M. Jerome Minister of Bridas his Body
 mangled & his members cut off*



Teares of Ireland

Child murder

Babies excised from women

Savage barbarism



thrust into her Privities, & by
ried her upon their shoulders in manner of an



felves, each man in his turn, and then they stuck the other end down into
ground, and so left her hanging in the ayr upon the Stakes end, as a most
midable and horrid spectacle to all that passed by that way.

So was tied with
aidable Precipice
branch of a Tree

Chap. VI.

In the Valley



Two poor Women of La Torre.

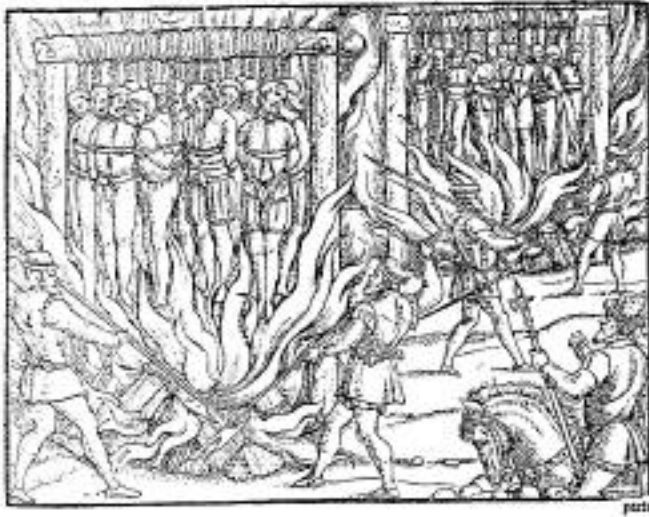
Upon the 22th. of April 1655. in a certain place called *La Sarcena*, One
Captain *Pela of Pancalier*, took two poor women of *La Torre*, and with a Fan-

ral dayes together
to help himself in the
reason it was a Pe
out the rest of the



rest on her but not finding it thro

The picture of the hanging and burning of divers persons counted for Lollards, in the first years of the reign of king Henry the fifth.



Actes and Monuments

The burning of Richard Hoesden.



19. Three women, with the infant bursting from the mother's womb



HECVP



Thank you

(and sorry)

Extra bits if needed



Example of Royalist violence in Bolton, Lancashire, 1644

THE GREAT
CASE
OF
TRANSPLANTATION
IN
IRELAND
DISCUSSED;

OR
Certain Considerations, wherein the
many great inconveniences in the transplan-
ting the Natives of Ireland generally out of the three
Provinces of Leinster, Ulster, and Munster, into
the Province of Connaught, are shewn.

Humbly tendered to every individual Member
of Parliament by a well wisher to the good of the
Common-wealth of England.



LONDON,
Printed for I. C. 1658.

Bodl., Unstructured, Wing / G1274.

¹⁵ 6
An Abstract of a Letter from M^r Léger Pasto^r and Vicinity
Reader at Geneva, Come in the Valleys of Piedmont and appointed
for their Affaires, written to M^r Stouppe the 22th of May. 1655. 106

honored Brother
By y^e of the 10th instant I have seen the Proposition made by his Highnesse the
for resort to give some Lands in Ireland to our poore Exiled. I confesse when at
first I heard of the massacre made among them, I had that thought, that those that
had escaped that butchery, ought to goe and settle themselves elsewhere, not seeing
any likelihood for them to returne home, or to live peaceably there. But having
imparted the matter to the Pasto^rs of those Churches that are now dispersed, they have re-
presented unto me that they ought not to yeeld so easily to those who little by little doe
waste and consume the body of our Churches, having destroyed those of Calabria in the
and those of the

“Letter from Jean Léger to Jean-Baptiste Stouppe”, 22 May
1655, BL Add MS 4365, Pell Letters and Papers, ff. 106-107.

A Translate of the Propositions already shewed
to his Highnesse. 239

The Protestants of Piedmont have heard with a great deal of joy how,
that his Highnesse had so much of tendernesse towards them, as to offer them
lands in Ireland, in case they could not settle themselves againe in their owne
Country. But they doe humbly returne their thanks to his Highnesse, they not
judging fitt so easily to quit their lands, for feare of giving occasion to their
Enemy, and to the Pope to triumph, for having compassed their ends wth out to
turne them out of Italy.

That the scattered Protestants, since all Treatys and Priviledges and the Lawe
of Nations have been broken and violated as to them, have resolved to frame a
Commonwealth w^{ch} may easily subsist by their Alliance with the Protestant
Cantons of Switzerland, under the protection of England.

That they have routed the Irish who intended to have settled themselves in their
Valleys. That they were not willing to submit themselves any more to the Domi-
nation of the Duke of Savoy; with whom they would not enter into any
Treaty, but for amending of him, untill they might heare of his Highnesse.

“A Translation of
the Propositions
already shewed to
this Highness”, BL
Add MS 4365, Pell
Letters and
Papers, ff. 239-
240.





*A Woman mangled in so horred a
manner that it was not possible shee
should be knowne, & after the Villaine
washed his handes in her blood, was
taken by the Troopers aduized to be
hanged leaped of the ladder & hanged
himselfe like a Bloody Tiger.*



*Companions of the Rebels meeting
with the English souldiers for their lives
falling downe before them crying for
mercy. thrust their Pickforkes into
their Childrens bellies & thrust them
into the water.*



Teares of Ireland

HECVP





Extreme violence against women and children



HECVP



Lamentations of Germany

