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[School composition by May Bruce Green, 1890; envelope "May Composition"]

Mar 25,

Witchcraft.

May Green.

The first mention of witches is in the Bible, For Moses – commanded the Children of Isreal [Israel] to put to death all witches.

The most noted witch I presume, was the witch of Endor, and this was the woman whom Saul consulted after feeling deserted by the Lord. He visited her disguised as a woman and wanted her to call up Samuel that he

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might communicate with him. She did so, and after communicating with the evil one, she then knew, that she was talking with Saul, and she said to him, "Saul, Saul, why hast thou deceived me?"

Witchcraft first made its appearance in Europe in the fifteenth century, and continued through that and the next century.

In the 16th and 17th

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centuries, witchcraft prevailed to such an extent, that the law demanded, ~~the~~ witches should be put to death. Even to the end of the 17th century, the learned men generally believed in witchcraft. Later, in Germany, it is said that as many as one hundred thousand people suffered and were burned, for practicing witchcraft.

In England and Scotland and it prevailed, and dreadful punishment

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followed.

The witches were supposed to have entered into regular consultation with the evil one, who gave them a _____ peculiar (famaliar) [familiar] spirit to do whatever they desired of it; she, on the other hand, agreeing to be his, after death.

The witches were supposed to have the power of flying through the air on broomsticks and of transforming themselves into many shapes, -

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especially, those of dogs and cats.

Objects that were particular by horrid, were regarded as chosen instruments of witches, such as, dead bodies, toads, frogs, lizards, serpents, scorpions, etc.

Cats, from their mysterious movements at midnight were regarded as particularly sacred to witches, who often

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assumed their shapes.

To discover whether or not a person was a witch ~~they~~ she was cast ~~her~~ into the water, and if she swam, she was regarded as a witch, ~~and~~ but if she sank, as of course, she was not one; so that not unfrequently it was death either way.

In 1688, the delusion known as the "Salem Witchcraft" began.

The people of one or two

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small towns in Massachusetts became the victims of a strange delusion. The whole world then believed in these evil spirits. The witches were generally some harmless old women, and when a persons ~~was~~ were accused of being a witches, it was almost imposible [impossible] to prove their innocence. So, twenty innocent people supposed to be witches were put to death, and a grate [great] many

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were saved by false confessions. Justice Sewall who had – judged them, made a public

confession of his mistake in the Old South Church at Boston.

At the begining [beginning] of the 18th century, a better state of feeling existed and little by little witchery has been abolished.