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A Faithful Narrative of Elizabeth Wilson.

New Haven, 1786. 12 pp.

YC copy.

FAITHFUL NARRATIVE

OF

Elizabeth Wilson ;

Who was EXECUTED at CHESTER,

January 3d, 1786.

Charged with the MURDER

OF HER

TWIN INFANTS.

Containing some account of her

DYING SAYINGS;

With some serious reflections.

Drawn up at the request of a friend unconnected
with the deceased.

New-Haven : Re-printed in the year 1786.



Borough of Chester, Jan. 5, 1786.

On the third instant was executed here, pursuant to her sentence, Elizabeth Wilson; charged with the murder of her twin illegitimate infants, on the 12th of October, 1784.

As the case of this woman is of a singular nature, has engrossed the public attention; and as there are various reports circulating respecting her, the following narrative, drawn up at the request of a person unconnected with her, may be acceptable at this time.

WAS found, by a person with a dog, crossing the fields, in a piece of woods a little distance from the road leading from Brandywine to the Turk's Head, two dead infants. Upon enquiry, and from concurring circumstances, there was reason to conclude; they were Elizabeth Wilson's; who some time before was delivered of two children, not far from the place where they were found, and who about eight weeks before, had left the house with the children; having a design, as she said, of going to Philadelphia. She was accordingly apprehended, and after examination before Justice Taylor, was ordered to this jail.

She was brought to trial the last court of Oyer and Terminer, which commenced on the 17th of October last, before the Honorable Judge Atlee; circumstances were so strong against her, that she was brought in guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before

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Before, at, and after her trial, she persisted in denying the fact ; her behaviour was such, in general, as gave reasons to conclude she was innocent of the murder of which she was charged, or was an insensible, hardened creature, and did not expect to die for this crime.

It was some time after she was sentenced, before she could be prevailed upon to make a discovery of the person that committed the horrid murder. A great deal of pains were taken to make her sensible that a promise of concealment under the circumstances she was in when made, and in a matter of such consequence, was not binding. She was very desirous of seeing her younger brother.† When he came to visit her, he proposed to him the making a real discovery of the truth ; he refused hearing it, until he had called several persons of character as witnesses. The account she gave them, or the confession she then made, and which was similar to the following one, together with their proceedings thereon, in finding the person charged with the murder, were presented to the Honorable the President and Council : who were pleased to grant her a respite for one month : with the respite came her death warrant, ordering her execution on Tuesday the 3d day of January, 1786.

During her confinement she was visited by serious people of different religious denominations, and appeared amazingly ignorant respecting her spiritual state, until some time after she was sentenced, when
many

† This note, in her own hand writing, was found on her table----- O could I but see my own brother ! to speak just a few words to him, to ease my broken heart, that is so distressed. Oh how hard a thing it is that I cannot see him ! Was he in my place and I in his, I would go to him, was't on my hands and knees ; but he will not come to me, to speak one word to me, before I depart this life and see man no more : so I just give myself up to the Lord, begging that he would hear my case, and give me life everlasting.

