



## CHAPTER XI.

*Dances of Death, with such text only as describes the subjects.*

### I.



IX small circles on a single sheet, engraved on copper by Israel Van Meckenen. 1. Christ sitting on his cross. 2. Three skulls on a table. 3. Death and the Pope. 4. Death riding on a lion, and the Patriarch. 5. Death and the Standard-bearer. 6. Death and the Lady. At top "memento

mori," at bottom "Israhel V. M."

II. A Dance of Death, engraved on copper, by Henry Aldegrever. 1. Creation of Eve. 2. Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit. 3. Expulsion from Paradise. 4. Adam digging, Eve spinning. 5. Death and the Pope. 6. Death and the Cardinal. 7. Death and the Bishop. 8. Death and the Abbot. All these have the date 1541, and with some variations follow the Lyons wood-cuts. They have scriptural texts in Latin. 12mo. The whole were afterwards copied in a work by Kieser, already described, p. 107.

III. A Dance of Death, consisting of eight subjects, engraved on copper by an unknown artist, whose mark is



1. Death beating a drum, precedes a lady and

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gentleman accompanied by a little dog. 2. Death playing on a stickado, precedes a lady and gentleman dancing back to back, below an hour-glass. 3. Death, with an hour-glass in his right hand, lays his left on the shoulder of a gentleman taking hold of a lady with his right hand, and carrying a hawk with his left. 4. Death crowned with a garland, and holding an hour-glass in his left hand, stands between a lady and gentleman joining hands. 5. Death, with a fool's cap and hood, a dagger of lath, and a bladder, holds up an hour-glass with his right hand; with his left he seizes the hand of a terrified lady accompanied by a gentleman, who endeavours to thrust away the unwelcome companion. 6. Another couple led by Death. 7. Death with a cap and feathers holds an hour-glass in his righthand, and with his left seizes a lady, whom a gentleman endeavours to draw away from him. All have the date 1562. 12mo. Size, 3 inches by 2. They are described also in Bartsch, "Peintre graveur," ix. 482, and have been sometimes erroneously ascribed to Aldegrever.

IV. A Dance of Death, extremely well executed on wood, the designs of which have been taken from a set of initial letters, that will hereafter be particularly described. They are upright, and measure 2 inches by 1½. Each subject is accompanied with two German verses.

V. On the back of the title-page to "Die kleyn furstlich Chronica," Strasb. 1544, 4to. are three subjects that appear to be part of a series. 1. Death and the Pope, who has a book and triple crosier. Death kneels to him whilst he plays on a tabor and drum. 2. Death and the King. Death blows a trumpet. 3. Death shoots an arrow at a warrior armed with sword and battle-axe. All these figures are accompanied with German verses, and are neatly engraved on wood.

VI. A series of single figures, etched with great spirit by Giovanni Maria Mitelli. They are not accompanied by Death, but hold dialogues with him in Italian stanzas. The characters are, 1. The Astrologer. 2. The Doctor of universal science. 3. The Hunter. 4. The Mathematician. 5. The Idolater. They are not mentioned in Bartsch: nor

in any other list of the works of engravers. It is possible that there are more of them.

VII. The five Deaths, etched by Della Bella. 1. A terrific figure of Death on a galloping horse. In his left hand a trumpet, to which a flag, agitated by the wind, is attached. In the background, several human skeletons, variously employed. 2. Death carrying off an infant in his arms. In the background, the churchyard of the Innocents at Paris. 3. Death walking away with a young child on his back. In the distance, another view of the above cemetery. 4. Death carrying off a female on his shoulders, with her head downwards, followed at a distance by another Death holding a corpse in his arms. 5. Death dragging a reluctant old man towards a grave, in which another Death, with an hour-glass in his hand, awaits him. All these are extremely fine, and executed in the artist's best time. There is a sixth of the series, representing Death throwing a young man into a well, but it is very inferior to the others. It was begun by Della Bella a short time before his death, and finished by his pupil Galestruzzi, about 1664. Della Bella likewise etched a long print of the triumph of Death.

VIII. A single anonymous French engraving on copper,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  by  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , containing three subjects. 1. Death and the Soldier. 2. Death standing with a pruning-knife in his right hand, and a winged hour-glass in his left. Under him are three prostrate females: one plays on a violin; the next, who represents Pride, holds a peacock in one hand and a mirror in the other; the third has a flower in her left hand. 3. Death and the Lady. He holds an hour-glass and dart, and she a flower in her right hand. Under each subject are French verses. This may perhaps be one only of a set.

IX. A German Dance of Death, in eight oblong engravings on copper, 11 by  $8\frac{1}{2}$ , consisting of eight sheets and twenty-five subjects, as follow:—1. A fantastic figure of a Death, with a cap and feathers, in the attitude of dancing and playing on a flute. He is followed by another dancing skeleton carrying a coffin on his shoulder. 2. Pope. 3. Emperor. 4. Empress. 5. Cardinal. 6. King. 7. Bishop. 8. Duke or General. 9. Abbot. 10. Knight.

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11. Carthusian. 12. Burgomaster. 13. Canon. 14. Nobleman. 15. Physician. 16. Usurer. 17. Chaplain. 18. Bailiff or Steward. 19. Churchwarden. 20. Merchant. 21. Hermit. 22. Peasant. 23. Young Man. 24. Maiden. 25. Child. This is a complete set of the prints, representing the Lübeck painting, already described in p. 37. In the translation of the inscriptions, as given by Dr. Nugent, two more characters are added at the end, viz. the Dancing Master and the Fencing Master. On the spectator's left hand of No. 1. of these engravings, is a column containing the following inscription in German,—in English as follows :—"Silence, foolhardy one, whoever thou art, who, with needless words, profanest this holy place. This is no chapel for talking, but thy sure place is in Death's Dance. Silence then, silence, and let the painting on these silent walls commune with thee, and convince thee that man is and will be earth : " and on Nos. 4 and 5, the words "Zu finden in Lubeck bey Christian Gotfried Donatius."

X. The following entry is in the Stationers' books :—

28 b.		v <sup>o</sup> Januarij [1597.]
Tho. Purfoote, sen. }	}	Entered their c. Mr. Dix and Wm. M. The roll of the Daunce of Death, with pictures and verses upon the same . . . . . VI.
Tho. Purfoote, jun. }		

XI. In the catalogue of the library of R. Smith, secretary of the Poultry Compter, which was sold by auction in 1682, is this article :—"Dance of Death in the cloyster of Paul's, with figures, very old." Probably a single sheet.

XII. This print is a copy, with a few variations, of a much older one engraved on wood, and probably unique, in the very curious collection of single sheets and black letter ballads, belonging to George Daniel, Esquire, of Islington. The figures are executed in a style of considerable merit, and each of them is described in a stanza of four lines. It may probably be the same as No. 1 or No. 2, mentioned in pp. 66 and 67, or either of Nos. x. or xi. described above. "The Dance of Death;" a single sheet, engraved on copper, with the following figures :—In the middle, Death leading the king; the beggar hand in hand with the king; Death leading the old man, followed by a child; the fool; the wise man, as an astrologer, led

by Death. On the spectator's left hand, Death bringing a man before a judge; with the motto, "The greatest judge that sits in honour's seat, must come to grave, where't boots not to intreat." A man and woman in a brothel, Death behind; with the motto, "Leave, wanton youth, thou must no longer stay; if once I call all mortals must obey." On the opposite side, the Miser and Death; the motto, "Come, worldling, come, gold hath no power to save; leave it thou shalt, and dance with me to grave." Death and the prisoner; the motto, "Prisoner arise, ile ease thy fettered feet, and now betake thee to thy winding sheet." In the middle of the print sits a minstrel on a stool formed of bones placed on a coffin with a pick-axe and spade. He plays on a tabor and pipe; with this motto, "Sickness, despaire, sword, famine, sudden death, all these do serve as minstrells unto Death; the beggar, king, fool, and profound, courtier and clown, all dance this round." Under the above figures is a poem of sixty-six lines on the power of Death, beginning thus:—

"Yea, Adam's brood and earthly wights which breathe now on the earth,  
Come dance this dance, and mark the song of this most mighty Death.  
Full well my power is known and seen in all the world about,  
When I do strike of force do yeeld both noble, wise, and stout, &c.

Printed cullored and sould by R. Walton at the Globe and Compasses at the West end of St. Paules church turning down towards Ludgate."

XIII. A large anonymous German engraving on copper, in folio. In the middle is a circular Dance of Death, with nine females, from the Empress to the Fool. In the four corners, two persons kneeling before a crucifix; saints in heaven; the temptation; and the infernal regions. At top, a frame with these verses:—

Vulneris en nostri certam solamque medelam  
En data divina præmia larga manu.  
Der Todt Christi zunicht hat gmacht  
Den Todt und's Leben wider bracht.

At bottom in a similar frame:—

Per unius peccatum Mors intravit in mundum.  
Den Todt und ewig hellisch pein  
Hat veruhrsagt die Sund allein.

This is within a broad frame, containing a Dance of Death, in twelve ovals. The names of the characters are in German:—1. The Pope. 2. Emperor. 3. King. 4. Cardinal. 5. Bishop. 6. Duke. 7. Earl. 8. Gentleman. 9. Citizen. 10. Peasant. 11. Soldier and Beggar. 12. Fool and Child. Under each subject is an appropriate inscription in Latin and German. In the middle at top, a Death's head and bones, an hour-glass and a dial. In the middle at bottom, a lamp burning on a Death's head, and a pot of holy water with an aspergillum. On the sides, in the middle, funereal implements.

XIV. Heineken, in his "Dictionnaire des Graveurs," iii. 77, mentions a Dance of Death engraved about 1740 by Maurice Bodenehr of Friburg, but without any further notice.

XV. Another very large print, 2 feet by 1½, in mezzotinto, the subject as in No. 10, but the figures varied, and much better drawn. At bottom, "Joh. EL. Ridinger excud. Aug. Vindel."

XVI. Newton's Dances of Death. Published July 12, 1796, by Wm. Holland, No. 50, Oxford Street, consisting of the following grotesque subjects engraved on copper. The size 6 inches by 5. 1. Auctioneer. 2. Lawyer. 3. Old Maid on Death's back. 4. Gamblers. 5. Scolding Wife. 6. Apple-woman. 7. Blind Beggar. 8. Distressed Poet and Bailiff. 9. Undertaker. 10. Sleeping Lady. 11. Old Woman and her Cats. 12. Gouty Parson feeding on a tythe pig. 12\*. Same subject differently treated. 13. Sailor and Sweetheart. 14. Physician, Grave-digger, and Death dancing a round. 15. Market-man. 16. Doctor, sick Patient, and Nurse. 17. Watchman. 18. Grave-digger putting a corpse into the grave. 19. Old maid reading, Death extinguishes the candle. 20. Grave-digger making a grave. 21. Old Woman. 22. Barber. 23. Lady and Death reflected in the mirror. 24. Waiter. 25. Amorous Old Man and Young Woman. 26. Jew Old Clothes-man. 27. Miser. 28. Female Gin-drinker.

XVII. The Dance of Death modernised. Published July 13, 1800, and designed by G. M. Woodward, Berners Street, Oxford Street. Contains the following caricatures. Size 5 by 4½.

1. King. "Return the diadem and I'll follow you."
2. Cardinal. "Zounds, take care of my great toe, or I shall never rise higher than a cardinal."
3. Bishop. "I cannot go, I am a bishop."
4. Old Man. "My good friend, I am too old, I assure you."
5. Dancing-master. "I never practised such an Allemande as this since I have been a dancing-master."
6. Alderman. "If you detain me in this way, my venison will be quite cold."
7. Methodist Preacher. "If you won't take I, I'll never mention you or the Devil in my sarmons as long as I lives."
8. Parson. "I can't leave my company till I've finished my pipe and bottle."
9. Schoolmaster. "I am only a poor schoolmaster, and sets good examples in the willage."
10. Miser. "Spare my money, and I'll go contented."
11. Politician. "Stay till I have finished the newspaper, for I am told there is great intelligence from the Continent."
12. Press-gang Sailor. "Why, d— me, I'm one of your apprentices."
13. Beggar. "This is the universal dance from a king to a beggar."
14. Jockey. "I assure you I am engaged at Newmarket."
15. Undertaker. "A pretty dance this for an undertaker."
16. Gouty Man. "Buzaglo's exercise was nothing to this."
17. Poet. "I am but a poor poet, and always praised the ode to your honour written by the late King of Prussia."
18. Physician. "Here's fine encouragement for the faculty."
19. Lawyer. "The law is always exempt by the statutes."
20. Old Maid. "Let me but stay till I am married, and I'll ask no longer time."
21. Fine Lady. "Don't be so boisterous, you filthy wretch. I am a woman of fashion."
22. Empress. "Fellow, I am an empress."

23. Young Lady. "Indeed, Sir, I am too young."

24. Old Bawd. "You may call me old bawd, if you please, but I am sure I have always been a friend to your worship."

XVIII. Bonaparte's Dance of Death. Invented, drawn, and etched by Richard Newton. 7 by 5.

1. Stabbed at Malta. 2. Drowned at Alexandria. 3. Strangled at Cairo. 4. Shot by a Tripoline gentleman. 5. Devoured by wild beasts in the desert. 6. **Alive in Paris.**