



Feud Among the Ranters

The quiet village of Longbridge Deverill was thrown into a sad state of excitement on Sunday evening last, by a public dispute which arose in the very camp of the ranting sect. It is said six teachers assembled at their meeting house, one of whom was a chimney sweeper, and the others the condition of labourers. One of these grave functionaries, it seems, was appointed to teach according to the teachers' plan, but as the sweeper was deemed by the class leader to have a more voluble tongue, the person appointed was desired to forego his turn in favour of the chivalrous sweep. But this request was not complied with, and the consequence was the leader exploded, his brother teachers lost their balance by the shock, and the whole of the little party were tumbled into confusion by the ranting of discord and contention. Some fled from the Babel that was created as quickly as they could, vexed, confused, and disgusted; and well would it be if in future they would all resolve to serve God under the shade of their parish church, where there are no such unseemly and unchristian strifes.

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[OPC Note: The original Ranters were a sect in time of the English Commonwealth, (1649-1660), regarded as heretical by the established church at the time. However, by the mid 19th century, the name was often applied to the Primitive Methodists, with reference to their simple, powerful, and often noisy, preaching.]