

A GHOST STORY.

Spirits of Departed Relatives Announce a Friend's Death.

Miss Willoughby sends the Toronto Globe the following ghost story:

"A quiet business man, a resident of a city of Ontario and a friend of our family, once related to me the following experience:

"My father was dead, and had been dead some years. My mother and youngest sister for some time after his death lived with me. On the approach of my sister's wedding day my mother was unexpectedly taken from us by the hand of death. This sad event postponed my sister's wedding till a year from that time, and her lover went away again to resume his business affairs. But the wedding never eventuated. Before the year was ended I suffered one of the bitterest losses of my life in the death of my favorite sister, who had lived with me for years and to whom I had become almost a second father. Her death came late in the fall of the year, within a few weeks of Christmas. I asked the man who was to have been my brother-in-law to come and spend the day with me. He promised to come, feeling that with a common grief we would derive mutual comfort.

"Christmas eve arrived, and I expected my friend that night. But I did not look for him till late, as he had to come quite a distance on horseback, and might not be able to start until late in the day; in fact, I felt that I would not be surprised if I did not see him until one or two o'clock in the morning. The other members of my household retired for the night, but I sat up awaiting the arrival of my guest. Reclining in my chair by the fender in the family sitting-room, I commenced to beguile the time with reading. Half an hour or so passed away, when I put aside the papers, feeling that I did not care to read any more. This was very unlike myself, as I had been in the habit of sitting up till midnight sometimes perusing with interest political discussions of the day or poring over my business affairs, and never found it hard to concentrate my thinking powers. But this night I felt restless and apprehensive, and at the same time a little despondent. I glanced at my watch; it was 10:45 o'clock. The time seemed very heavy. The house seemed quieter than it had for years. Placing my elbows on my knees and resting my face in my hands, I commenced to think, or, rather, to muse. Presently the clock in the next room struck 11 and somewhat aroused me. Its last stroke had hardly done vibrating when I heard a rustling sound at the door of the sitting-room. Thinking that my visitor had come upon me unawares, I looked up expectantly and was fully awake. The door swung mysteriously back and four persons, or rather shadows, glided toward me, advancing abreast through the apartment. They were my father and mother and my sister, leaning on the arm of her lover, whom I had been expecting in the flesh. They looked as natural as when in life and their faces were very happy. This I observed as they drew near my chair, and I felt no fear. Presently they paused, and my sister, with a very bright smile, said: "George, we are all together now." The vision passed. I sat in contemplation for some time, and then retired. I knew my guest would never arrive.

"In the morning a messenger came with the intelligence that about midnight my friend had been found by the roadside dead. His horse had remained by the spot where the rider lay prostrated, and to all appearances the cause of death had been the stumbling of the horse and throwing of the rider over an ugly heap of stones. I asked at what time did he think the accident had happened. He answered that those in attendance had concluded that death had taken place about an hour before the finding of the body. Just the time of my vision, I thought. I went away with the man to look after the remains of my friend. I found that person known to us both had sent the message. After the funeral rites were over I told some of my nearest friends the story of that night. I seldom tell it now, but those happy faces are often in my mind, and are always an inspiration to me."

TO EXPLORE ALASKA.

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Its Geological, Topographical and Other Features.

Congress Appropriates \$20,000 for the Expedition—Trails, Wagon Roads and Routes for Railroads Will Be Mapped Out.

Preparations have been made by Director Walcott, of the geological survey, for an extensive exploration of the geological, topographical and other features of Alaska. This will be done under authority of congress, which appropriated \$20,000 for the purpose. Ten officers of the survey will be assigned to the work in prospect, viz., George H. Eldridge, Arthur Keith, J. E. Spurr, Peters, Robert E. C. Barnard, W. J. C. Mendall and F. C. Schrader. The latter two are to accompany military exploring parties.

In addition to the above named, 18 campmen will be employed. Four parties are to be organized under the general charge of Mr. Eldridge. Seattle will be the outfitting point, and the whole expedition will proceed there about April 1. The gunboat Wheeling will transport the parties. At Skagway two parties will be detached, the first under Mr. Barnard, proceeding to the Klondike region for the purpose of making a topographic survey of the district adjacent to the eastern boundary of Alaska, the one hundred and forty-first meridian.

The second party, leaving Mr. Eldridge at Skagway, will be in charge of Mr. Spurr, who will cooperate with Earnard in crossing the passes, and on reaching the mouth of the White river will enter upon its special field of work, namely, the exploration of the White and Tanana river systems. After organizing the Barnard and Spurr parties at Skagway Mr. Eldridge, with the remaining members of the force, will go in the Wheeling to Cook inlet to land at the mouth of the Sushitna river. He is expected to proceed with the entire corps then with him up the Sushitna to about latitude 63 degrees 40 minutes, where several forks of the river combine. At this point a party under Mr. Peters will be detained to explore the northeastern portion of the Sushitna drainage basin, with the expectation that their work will connect with that of a party sent from the war department on Copper river, and that they will close on Mr. Spurr's surveys down the Tanana after detaching Mr. Peters' party. Mr. Eldridge will proceed with an assistant westward across the divide between the Sushitna and the Kuskokuk to survey the head waters of the Kuskokuk and to determine the navigability of that stream by descending it to the usual portage to the lower Yukon. In the exploration by Mr. Peters and Mr. Eldridge sufficient attention will be given to the location of a possible railroad from Cook inlet to the Yukon. All the parties will rendezvous at St. Michaels by September 15.

The routes traversed will be critically inspected with a view to ascertaining the most practical location for trails, wagon roads or railroad; the character and extent of the timber will be noted and the rivers or streams will be examined as to the possibilities of navigation and the height of falls or rapids, and the rise and fall of tides will be recorded. The geologic survey will be conducted as to ascertain the general distribution of rock masses, their relations, and so far as may be the character and origin of each. All occurrences of valuable minerals will be noted and special attention given to the presence or absence of gold, whether in placers or veins.

MARK TWAIN FEELS RELIEVED

Glad His Debts Are Paid and That He Can Soon Return to the Home He Loves.

Mark Twain was seen the other day at Vienna and asked whether he would say how he felt to be out of debt. He replied gravely: "O, you can tell them I'm glad it's over. What a worry it has been!" Then he opened a drawer proudly and took out the receipts copied by typewriter just as they had been sent him. "There were 96 creditors," he said, "and I would have paid them all in full at once and have done with it, but friends advised me to pay in three installments—the 6th of December, 6th of January, and 6th of February. What I hate as much as anything is the idea of the public that I was unwise in business. I consider the contrary was proved by the way I published Gen. Grant's book in 1885, which could not have been done by a bad business man. However, one of my greatest pleasures now is to be able to look forward to the day when I can return home and live in the house which I and my family so dearly love."

Clever Stage Effects.

An ingenious stage waterfall devised by Mr. Gailhard has attracted attention at the Paris opera halls. It is made of tulle stretched on frames imitating the curves of a fall. Behind it little streams of water are discharged through perforated pipes against a metal plate, so as to throw a spray upon the tulle. When the electric light is played on this the effect is magical.

Spitzbergen Has a Newspaper.

Spitzbergen has attained the importance of having a newspaper published devoted entirely to it. It is the Spitzbergen Gazette, edited by a professor of the college at Tromso in Norway.

Snow on Lyon Peak.

For the second time since California was settled snow was seen on January 30 on Lyon Peak, about 20 miles from San Diego.

SOCIAL WAR OF BELMONT'S.

Jealous Rivalry Between the Brothers for Social Supremacy at New York City.

The bad feeling which has existed between August Belmont and his brother, O. H. P. Belmont, since the latter became the husband of the former wife of William K. Vanderbilt, has taken the form of a rivalry which affords great amusement to the smart set about Westbury and Hempstead, New York. Both brothers have large estates within sight of the Meadowbrook Hunt club grounds and are spending all kinds of money in outdoing one another in elaborate appointments.

August Belmont has the advantage of the larger residence. But he soon realized that his brother was a sharp competitor for popularity. At frequent intervals the house of August entertains. The members of the swell set from far and near are invited—all but O. H. P. and his family. Then, again, to offset any inroads which August may have made by a complete monopoly of the exclusive circle, the house of O. H. P. announces a fete and the slight is given to August.

The Queens County Horse Show association is an outgrowth of the intermingling of many wealthy equine admirers around Hempstead and Westbury. August Belmont was a member of the board of directors of this organization. He would have been a director to-day but for the fact that his brother was proposed for membership and unanimously elected. Then August resigned in a huff and contents himself with the little horse show of his own, while O. H. P. revels among the good fellows and laughs in his sleeve at the squirming of his brother.

SIDE LIGHTS ON KEY WEST.

Piquant Letter from a Young Woman Gives a Coosy View of the Place.

A letter has been received in St. Louis from a young woman who resides in Key West. She says, in part: "Everyone here believes that there will be war and most everyone is preparing for it. The harbor is filled with boats and cannon and munitions of war are being rushed aboard ships and to the various keys. Of course we are all patriotic here and confident that we could give the detestable Spaniards a whipping. Many of the families are leaving the city for the interior or for northern cities and towns, not because they are afraid that the town will be captured, but you know how excitable some people are."

SEE CUTS THE DOG'S THROAT.

A Kentucky Woman's Prompt Display of Nerve Saves Her Husband's Life.

Dr. William McKinley's wife saved him from death a second time Saturday when he went to the country to visit a patient at Winchester, Ky. As the weather was fine, he took Mrs. McKinley along. Arriving at the patient's house the doctor got out and left his wife in the buggy to hold the horse. Just as the doctor reached the door a large bull dog rushed on him in an attempt to catch him by the throat. The doctor caught the dog's jaws with his right hand and with his left caught his forefeet. He yelled to his wife to come to his assistance. She used the buggy whip on the dog, but he continued to try to bite her husband. The latter told her to get a knife out of his pocket, and she did so. Then she cut the dog's throat and immediately fainted. The doctor soon restored her to consciousness and then treated his patient. He will have the dog's skin stuffed and mounted as an ornament for his office. Two years ago his wife saved him from being strangled to death in a folding bed, which had closed on him.

USE FOR OLD STOCKINGS.

Raveled, Fungated and Shipped to Russia for Manufacture of Cotton Goods.

The fumigation of second-hand cotton stockings is the queer duty which the health department at Chicago was called upon the other day to perform. B. Shofor, a jeweler at No. 731 West North avenue, learning that a scarcity of cotton exists in Russia, purchased 5,000 pounds of second-hand cotton stockings, had them unraveled and the yarn baled for shipment to Russia, where the product will be used for making cotton goods. Thus he hopes to demonstrate that goods may be made and unmade in the United States and shipped half way around the world at a profit. The Russian consul in Chicago called upon Dr. Reynolds to fumigate the bales of cotton material before shipment.

New Gas Engines in Germany.

In the Diesel gas engine, which is now attracting much attention in Germany, the mixture of air and gas which moves the piston is not suddenly exploded when it takes fire, but burns slowly enough to impart a more gradual impulse to the engine. A 1,000 horse-power motor of this type is promised for the Paris exposition of 1900.

Bicycle Accident in Berlin.

Last year there were about 1,100 collisions in Berlin between bicyclists and other persons or vehicles; there were two fatal accidents.

Authors in Germany.

Authors are as plentiful in Germany as blackberries. Munich alone has a literary club with 1,400 members.

Bulletin Financier. Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 5 avril 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ECHANGE (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Fusillé' and 'Même temps la semaine der'.

MARCHE MONETAIRE.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Nouvelle-Orléans' and 'Paris exceptionnel'.

MONNAIES AMERICAINES ET STRANGÈRES en Billets de Banque.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Souverain Victoria' and '20 francs'.

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LE STRIKING est faible.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Commerciaux (60 jours)' and 'Traités de banque (à vue)'.

LA ORANGE A VUE SUR NEW-YORK.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Traités de commerce \$100 d'ave'.

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Appel de 2 P. M.' and '\$5,000 City 4s'.

ACTIONS ET BONS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Banque de Commerce' and 'Banque de l'Etat'.

MARCHE DE NEW-YORK.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Stable' and 'Cotes—MIDDLING GIN 5/8'.

N. Y. FUTURES.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'A peine stable' and 'Janvier'.

MOUVEMENT DU COTON.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'A la Nlle-Orléans depuis le 1er sept'.

MARCHE DE LIVERPOOL.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes 'Calmes' and 'Cotes—44 ft. pour l'Ordinaire'.

MARCHE DE HAVRE.

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pour le marché en gros, les prix des détail (sauf ceux de 25 à 500, plus élevés par le port) sont de 1/4 de cent pour les autres articles provenant du port.

GRANDS ET LIQUEURS.

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L'ABELLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre dans un commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00