THE TWO DOCTORS.

They do not do so now, but in bygone times some of the medical students and young practicing physicians of Detroit were in the habit of stealing bodies for dissection from the cemeteries adjoining the city.

In those times there were two young doctors, just out of their teens, who were partners in a practice which left them with a great deal of time on their hands. Both of them were strong of head and of physical makeup, and either of them could drink any other man in Detroit drunk on cherry whisky and still retain his sea legs and his cool head. And there were not a few sturdy drinkers in Detroit then.

Nevertheless, while the young physicians appeared to be sailing straight for the rock of Ruin, they put in a great deal of time, much of it stolen from the night, advancing themselves in a profession to which they were courageously devoted. One of them, it may be mentioned incidentally, advanced in the after days to a very high position in the medical department of the United States army, and the other became one of the foremost physicians of the city.

One night the two determined upon making a sally upon a certain cemetery, to steal the corpse of a man who had died of a peculiar disease, which was the talk of the little town at the time, and which those medical circles [illegible] and in some instances furious discussion. When they emerged from their favorite loafing place, they were pretty well filled with cherry whisky, and the hour was past 11 o'clock. Their chums came away with them, as that was the customary hour for retiring unless it happened to be a holiday occasion, when "We Won't Go Home Till Morning" was sung; a song, by the way, which imparts a flavor of the wine of the immortals to good average whisky—which in its turn cheerfully and heartily reciprocates the compliment, by causing the song to thrill the soul like the war hymn of triumphant archangels.

Earlier in the evening they had made arrangements for a horse and a light wagon, spades, picks, crowbars and ropes. They knew the location of the grave, and they started out. The night favored them with opaque clouds which hid a three-fourths faded summer moon.

Arrived at the desired place, outside the cemetery fence, they led the horse into a strip of woods, crossed the road and entered the cemetery. Before proceeding to business they took a hearty pull at the cherry bottle. With the aid of their dark lanterns they found the mark which had been made upon the grave in the daytime. They then proceeded to adjust their dark colored sheeting. The grave was pretty close to the road, but they didn't mind that. The sheeting, hung on sticks pressed into the ground, screened the grave from all points of view, and the dark lantern was hung in such a position that it shone in a narrow circle downward upon the grave.

Both seized their spades then and went to work with a will at either end of the grave, space being taken at one end to afford room for both to work. In this way the muscular young fellows soon reached the rough box. The top of this was taken off and laid aside. In a little while the cover of the coffin was unscrewed, and in the haste of the moment it was thrown out of the grave. It struck the width of sheeting next the road and threw it down.

The corpse was a very heavy one, and it took the united efforts of both the doctors to raise it in the narrow space of the grave. They managed to stand it up at the end of the grave and then concluded that the best thing to do was to have one of them lift from below and the other from the top. To this end one of them proceeded to climb out of the grave, but just at that moment their blood was frozen in their veins by a piercing shriek.

On the night chosen by the young doctors for their raid on the cemetery B. William Green, a suburban beau, whose characteristics were of the hue of his name, and whose courage was utterly disproportioned to his tall, gaunt frame, was returning homeward in company with Mary S——, as beautiful a country girl as ever tripped over the daisies and as bright and intelligent as she was beautiful. People often wondered then how a beauty of such manifest superiority of character could see anything attractive in a fellow like Bill Green, but from this range of time the riddle is easily read—beaus were very scarce in the township of H—— in those days, and hence a girl had no choice. It was said that they were affianced, but this was not true. Something in Mary's conduct had held William back from declaring himself, although she readily allowed his attention and refused the proffers of escort of a certain newcomer in the field.

That night the couple had been to a party, and the shortest and indeed the only way to their respective homes was by the cemetery road, unless it might be across the rough fields, an impracticable way in the dark.

As the twain approached the dark hollow of the road, which the bounds of the cemetery touched, Mary naturally drew closer to her tall escort, and the touch of femininity [illegible] in William the [illegible] circumstances of [illegible] advantage [illegible] and pop the question. But William was a bit of a coward, [illegible], and the chill hour of midnight, together with the contiguity of the graveyard, was not to his liking. His heart went pit-a-pat, not for the adored object at his side, but because of certain noises which the wind made among the bushes in the cemetery, and he also fancied there were footsteps behind him. His repressed fears controlled his tongue, upon which a proposal of marriage hung suspended, although Mary pressed closer to his side as they walked rapidly along.

As for the thoughts that were passing through the shapely head of Mary at the time, the lady has since said that she knew from William's actions that he wanted to propose, and she frankly admits that he would have been accepted on the spot, since she entertained the idea that she would have been [illegible] to the horrible place if she had refused. On such little things do the pivots of a life sometimes swing.

William was long in drawing his courage to the sticking point. At length he drew in a long breath, and tremulously uttering the name that thousands have loved so fondly—"Mary"—was about to declare himself and ask for her hand, but at that critical moment the distended eyes of both were drawn to the cemetery by the light of the dark lantern. They suddenly stopped in a palsy of fear. And such a horrible sight as they saw!

The face of a corpse protruding from the grave, every frightful feature exposed in the light of the dark lantern!

Mary shrieked and fell in a dead faint. William's knees smote together, and his hair arose in [illegible] fright. Another instant and his legs, which were growing too weak to support him, would have given way and brought him to the ground, but Mary's shriek in the total eclipse of his senses sounding like the yelp of a pursuing fiend, galvanized him into the strength of terror, and he flew down the road like the shadow of a scudding cloud. Scrambling over the fence, for a cross cut to his home, his coattails were gripped from behind by the sharp slivers of a rail, and thinking that the fiend had him he fainted dead away and hung there for an hour. Recovering his senses later, he staggered to the house and to bed, where he remained a very sick man for two weeks.

The shriek paralyzed the young doctors for but a second. They scrambled hastily out of the grave. One of them seized the dark lantern and closed the slide, and then both of them stood silent, drawing quick breaths. Not a sound was heard. It was a place remote from houses, and they wondered that even such a piercing shriek should convey no alarm.

"It must have come from the road," whispered one to the other.

"Let us search," was the brief reply.

The body of the girl was found, and the young physicians, regardless of their own safety and at no little risk of their lives in case of discovery, set at work to bring the girl out of her deathlike swoon. It was no easy task to allay her fears. They did everything that men could do to reassure the frightened girl and gradually she [illegible] self possessed and begged to be taken home. She was too weak to walk. The team was brought around, and she was carefully and tenderly assisted to a seat. Dr. X was beside her, and reaching down the dark lantern to his companion, who stood in the road, he said, "Leave it."

The other understood, and without hesitation proceeded to reinter the corpse and hide the tools in the adjoining woods. He said afterward that he made a better job at fashioning the mound than the sexton had. At any rate, it was never known that the grave had been disturbed.

During the drive to Mary's house, as Dr. X subsequently informed his companion, he told some of the most ingenious lies on record. It was quite by accident that they discovered her in the road as they were driving home after a consultation case, he had gravely informed her, and he gave her the particulars of the case, carefully avoiding any inquiry as to what caused her to be stretched in the middle of the road in a dead faint alone.

He promised to visit her next day, and he kept his promise. And feeling interested in the case he kept on coming when she was quite well, until finally one day, on quitting the house, Mary went with him in a carriage after whose rolling wheels a gay wedding party pitched old slippers, amid the laughter of the young and the benedictions of the old.—Detroit News.

Swinburne [illegible] himself much glory in the verse-making line recently. But the poem he was inspired to write about the Chicago exposition is equal to his best. Not in years has he given the world anything so good as the ode beginning, "[illegible] smiles on sunrise, east and west are one."

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