THE STORY OF A GHOST.

It was a queer, rambling, old fashioned red brick house, with high-peaked gables, overlooking the sea, that Mr. Leonard Rivers had purchased as a summer residence. His wife had been dead many years. His family consisted of a son and daughter, a housekeeper and two other servants. The place he had selected was somewhat dilapidated and altogether isolated, which exactly suited his recluse nature, especially as the greater part of the year he was engaged in mercantile business in London, and this afforded him the quiet he needed.

[illegible]

...moonlight to render every object discernible. Everything remained as it had been left upon the morning of their father's death.

Arthur crossed the room with his sister, and they took their places behind the heavy crimson curtains which hung from the old fashioned high post bedstead. [illegible]

...on looking within he distinctly saw a narrow, dark passage, and rude stone steps leading to regions below.

They proceeded down a long, winding stone staircase, that appeared to conduct them far beneath the old house, and entered a passage half choked up by fallen stones and dirt. Its direction was to the north for some distance, and then abruptly turned toward the sea and terminated in a huge cavern. It was tenantless, though with plain marks of having been recently occupied.

A dirty pack of cards was scattered over a rude table, with several pieces of false money and the remnants of a feast. There were a couple of benches, a few broken chairs, a pile of casks at one end containing liquors, burglar's instruments, and dies for casting false coin, scattered in random confusion—all pointing to the conclusion that the cave was the haunt of burglars and coiners.

Laura clung tremblingly to her brother, and whispered, with white lips, "Oh, Arthur, what a dreadful place! Let us hasten back before the wretches who congregate here come and surprise us."

"Never fear, sister. It is, as I fancied, the rendezvous of a gang of outlaws, who only spend their nights here in drinking and plotting their unlawful calling. The sliding panel creating the mysterious sounds they imagined would be attributed to the supernatural, and so frighten away any persons who came to occupy the house and leave them unmolested. But come, we have seen enough."

The return was swiftly made, the panel replaced, and Laura retreated to her own room to obtain the rest she greatly stood in need of. Her brother rode to the next town and made arrangements with the authorities to have a force on hand at midnight. Long before that hour they appeared in little squads and were silently admitted and conducted to the blue room, young Rivers standing in the secret panel and waiting for it to be moved.

Presently it slid back with a heavy rumbling noise and Arthur sprung through the opening, collared some one who attempted to give a signal, [illegible] dragged him forth and revealed the face of the little old gardener! He was instantly gagged and bound, and Arthur, accompanied by the body of armed men, descended to the cavern, surprised the entire band of desperadoes, and quickly conveyed them to prison through an opening by way of the sea.

In due time they were tried and sentenced to long years of punishment, the old gardener included. The red house was troubled no more by mysterious sounds, and even the housekeeper and two maids had to give up their ideas of ghosts and a haunted chamber.

Some years later, and upon her wedding day, Arthur presented to his sister the property, and her honeymoon was passed there. It is now an occasional resort for her London friends, but, notwithstanding the secret staircase has been walled up and the sliding panel secured, Laura cannot be induced to occupy the blue room for a single night. It contains, as it ever will, the mystery of her father's death.—Courier-Journal.

A Favorable Impression.

Amy—Papa, do you know anything of Mr. Hustle, who has called on me once or twice?

Papa—He's a young business man.

Amy—Ah! I like a man who means business.—West Shore.

Meteors in Mexico.

In an account of Mexican meteorites Mr. L. Fletcher, an English mineralogist, describes fourteen huge masses of iron which have been found within a small section of country. The largest has the form of a beehive, rises four feet above the ground, and is five feet in diameter at the surface of the soil, beneath which it extends to unknown depths. The second mass, estimated to weigh 4,000 pounds, is now in the National museum at Washington. The Butcher masses number eight pieces, weighing from 290 pounds to 430 pounds, and having a total weight of 4,000 pounds. The Sanchez estate mass weighs 252 pounds, and the Fort Duncan mass 97 1-4 pounds. The greatest dispersion is sixty-six miles.—New York Telegram.

A Wealthy Duke.

The Duke of Westminster is not only credited with being the greatest land owner in London, but also the greatest house owner in the United Kingdom. It has been stated that house property built upon his lands has fallen in at termination of leases, or has been acquired by him to the value of upward of seven millions sterling, and by the end of the present century, when the whole of his leases fall due, it will amount to upward of fifteen millions sterling, and all houses of the finest description throughout London.—London Tit-Bits.

An Early Letter of Thackeray's.

I really think I am becoming terribly industrious, though I can't get Dr. Russell to think so. It is so hard when you endeavor to work hard to find your attempts nipped in the bud. There are but 370 in the school. I wish there were only 369.—Life of Thackeray.

PROFITS IN POULTRY.

A Massachusetts Poultryman Gives His Views on the Subject.

W. H. Rudd, in an address delivered before a Massachusetts Farmers' Institute, made the following statements:

Taking for our standpoint any section of the country within reach of the New York or Boston market, an average hen, with ordinary management, will return an income over and above the cost of housing and keeping of not less than one dollar in ten months from the day she begins to lay. I place this at the minimum figure, which can be increased in proportion to the judgment and skill and energy expended in the business.

Mr. Rudd looks to the sale of his cockerels to largely assist in raising his pullets, but he says: "If we had none to sell it cannot cost over sixty-seven cents to furnish the egg, hatch and raise a pullet to the laying age—after which time the expense of keeping her for ten months cannot exceed one dollar. If she is good for anything she will yield not less than ten dozen eggs in ten months from the day she commences to lay. If these figures seem large, remember that this period of ten months is the most productive portion of her entire life, and if, when her ten best months of productiveness are passed, it is considered best to dispose of her and make room for new pullets, she will return the sixty-seven cents that she originally cost and probably more."

There is in most New England villages a local demand for fresh eggs at better prices than can usually be obtained by shipping them to commission houses in the large cities. This is especially true in manufacturing towns. But in the absence of a home market the eggs can be profitably sent to the city. Mr. Rudd says: "If of good size, perfectly clean, strictly fresh, nicely packed and regularly shipped to the Boston market eggs bring from eighteen to forty-three cents per dozen, depending upon the season of the year and also upon whether they are white, light colored or brown—the dark brown ones bringing from two to seven cents per dozen more than others. The eggs will average twenty-four cents per dozen throughout the year, and our ten dozen can therefore be called $2.40. Deduct from this one dollar for expense of feeding the pullet and we have a profit of 40 per cent. above our starting figure. I never figure the cost of housing poultry, because good buildings can be erected and equipped for one dollar per hen, and they are apparently almost as good as new after having been used twenty years, which would bring the annual cost to five cents per hen, and this is much more than repaid by the droppings alone, which should be carefully saved and sold if not wanted at home."

Not Easily Excited.

Professor Cox—let us call him—was thoroughly in earnest as a scientific worker. Every event that he observed was made to add something to his knowledge or to illustrate some truth already learned.

His readiness to make passing events teach practical lessons was well shown by an incident that occurred one day in the lecture room.

Placed before the class was a machine by which some gas was being liquefied in a heavy cast steel cylinder by cold and enormous pressure. Suddenly there was a terrible crash as pieces of the cylinder were hurled violently in every direction. Glass was shattered, plastering knocked down, filling the room with dust, and general havoc reigned.

The condensed gas, suddenly freed from pressure, rushed out like a stream of snowflakes, adding decidedly to the general effect of storm and destruction. Luckily nobody was hurt, but two seconds after the explosion every man in the class was scrambling for the door over chairs, settees and whatever else was in the way.

At the door a few of the students paused, and then they heard Professor Cox calling, in the calmest possible tones, for them to return.

Looking back they dimly saw the professor, a crayon in each hand, standing amid the ruins before the big blackboard, which he was fast covering with the figures of elaborate calculations.

A moment later he began to lecture as quietly as ever, describing fully why the explosion occurred, the amount of work done by it and the different ways in which this work had been expended. In conclusion he said:

"Gentlemen, never be so excited by any event that you cannot observe it closely and draw from it some practical lesson."—Youth's Companion.

Puzzled by the Law.

It is very difficult for a man unlearned and untraveled to understand, in the slightest degree, the customs of foreign nations. George Mabbedy, a Copt, born at Jerusalem and educated at an English school there, has for many years served as guide to travelers in the east. Yet after all his acquaintance with "Franks" he fails to understand their customs. "With the Bedouins" contains the following illustrations of his conclusions in regard to an English lawyer and his mode of life:

He proposed going to England and helping me in my office.

"What would you do there, George?" I asked.

"I stand at door with my sword. This man come in; I let him come. That man go out; I put him out."

His main idea is that I must be constantly engaged on murder cases, and that those whom I am opposing must be always seeking my life. He therefore wishes me to be on my guard against avenging knives.

George has been much puzzled to understand exactly what I do when I am at home, and how I earn my living by the law. After much pondering he proposes this question:

"When one man kill another and come to see you, what you tell him?"

"When one man kills another he does not come to me. He runs away. If he is caught he will be hanged."

"But if he bribe the judge?"

"Judges in England do not accept bribes."

"Well, it is different in Syria," says George, with a sigh of perplexity. Life in Syria is to him an open book, but England is too much for him.

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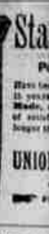
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