

THE EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, February 28, 1873.

TRUST IN GOD.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that He and Truth
His mercy underlies.

A few words and such are best,
The bruised need he will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of mine I have,
Nor work my faith to prove;
I can but give the gift He gave,
And thankfulness for love.

And so baffle the silent sea,
I wait the muffled ear;
No harm from him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift,
Their frontiers pale in air;
I cannot tell if I exceed the limit
Beyond his love and care.

J. G. Whittier.

The Haunted Schoolhouse at Newburyport, Mass.

[CONCLUDED.]

The climax of this long series of visitations and troubles was reached on the dark and stormy evening of the 1st of November. All day long, from early morning till the middle of the afternoon session, the customary disturbances were in full force. By long experience the fears of the boys had become somewhat deadened, and the furious uproar now afforded them rather more amusement than terror. While in the midst of the excitement, a general alarm from the whole school was raised. The face of the boy was again staring at the window. A lad named Lydon, who was at the head of the class, looked into the entry, and at once exclaimed: "There is a boy out there!"

Miss Perkins, who was passing, and beheld what Lydon had discovered, standing at the further end. She approached it hastily until within six or seven feet, when she became impressed with its true character, or, rather, with the fact that the figure was not substantial. She described it as representing a boy of twelve or thirteen years of age, slender in body, and with a pale face. He was dressed in brown clothing, and his hands partially folded, as if to receive something. His face, though pinched, had a pleasant expression. His eyes were blue; his hair was of a yellowish white, such as is common among the fisherman's children in that part of the town, and it was curled off his forehead. His neck was disengaged upon the top of his head. About the neck was a bandage of considerable width.

When Miss Perkins discovered that she was encountering something unreal, she faltered, and, being partially overcome, she seized the cedar stalks which she had for support. At this moment the figure of the boy started from its position in the corner beside the window and advanced toward the door opposite him, which led to the garret stairs. It opened of itself, and he passed through, followed by Miss Perkins, who, attempted in vain to seize him. He passed up the stairs, closely followed by the intrepid girl. Midway up she stumbled over a brush, and when she again raised her eyes, the figure was standing at the top, looking fixedly at her. In this interval it had changed somewhat — its dress, which had apparently been composed of jacket and pantaloons, had given place to a green frock, which still retained the distinct outline of its form. Miss Perkins hastened on, and the figure retreated. When she got to the landing above, it was but a few feet in advance of her. She ran toward it, but as she did so, it began to lose its shape and to disappear. She saw so vigorous a grasp at it, that her fingers cut the point of her hand, but she seized nothing, the figure sinking beneath her feet with a tremulous motion, and, with its eyes still fixed upon the fainting teacher, it wholly disappeared.

Her account of this extraordinary incident was circumstantial and intelligible. The boy Lydon is a lad of the speculative and observant type, and his description of the appearance, as well as that of his mates, bears out in every particular the story told by the mistress.

On the succeeding Friday, this vision was again seen, at about the same hour in the afternoon. Miss Perkins, however, with even more resolution than before, beat a hasty retreat from her sight when midway up the stairs. The expression of its features, in both cases, though pleasant at first, became sad before they faded away.

Between these two dates Miss Perkins encountered a new terror.

Up the stairs, in question, the voices which had been heard from time to time in the garret had been, with one exception, muffled and indistinct. This exception I have described. They now manifested themselves in a fresh manner.

One afternoon when the noises had been unusually loud, and the influences especially active, voices issued from the teacher's end of the school room a loud and coarse tone, which seemed to echo at the further end, but with a laugh instead of a diminished voice of its own character. This was frequently followed by a similar dust in the garret above, which was repeated several times. The scholars, astonished at the novel visitation, sat in frightened expectancy. Miss Perkins saw the necessity of allaying their fears, if possible, and she asked which of them would go into the attic to see if some one were hidden there.

One of the largest boys declared himself ready to go, provided the teacher would accompany him. The expedition was thus arranged, and the two armed themselves with sticks and proceeded up the stairs. They nearly reached the centre of the garret floor, when from behind them the laugh again arose, with twice its former significance. It was a cold, hollow, shrill laugh. The teacher, for the first time in her long experience with all these unnameable terrors, felt a thorough sensation of fear. She pursued the sound, when it was repeated in another quarter, and now and then laid gently about her with her stick. But as she struck the roof and the chimney in her efforts to bring down her enemy, the laugh rose higher and higher, until the place was alive with the chilling sound.

The teacher and the boy, convinced that nothing was to be discovered, and being filled with dread, left the spot; and as they descended the stairs, a perfect triumph of sounds pursued them until they re-entered the school room.

All the accumulated wisdom of the school-teachers of the town of Leominster and hundreds of other visitors has not abated the phenomena in the smallest degree; and it seems that the history of this schoolhouse must take an undisputed place with that of the celebrated Weoley Caverns of England.

Notwithstanding, the Spiritualists have been quick to appropriate these manifestations as proofs of their peculiar principles, and the "clique" have received an extraordinary impulse; but if the troubles serve to bait the scientists into a new examination of kindred circumstances and annoyances — why, then they will give them a "Levi's Illustrated Newspaper."

MISCELLANEOUS.

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