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ST. MARY'S BEACON

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TERRORS OF THE LOOT.

In the year 1854 a Mr. Davis, an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, left York factory on Hudson Bay in the annual vessel visiting that port, destined for England. He took with him his two eldest daughters for the purpose of having them educated in England, leaving his wife and remaining children at an interior fort in the company's territory. Mr. Davis was a highly educated Englishman, of staunch physique and unshaken intellect. No question of his sanity had ever been raised, or that he was not the peer of any in his rank of life. The vessel enjoyed a prosperous voyage and reached London in safety. Mr. Davis placed his daughters in a suitable school, and then passed some time in visiting among his relatives in that vicinity.

At length he received notice from the company's office in French-burgh street that a vessel was to sail for York factory on a certain date, in which he was to be assigned a state-room. It was intended to send two vessels that season with the annual outfit, one to proceed the other by a week or more.

Mr. Davis sailed on the first ship, which encountered heavy weather almost from the time of starting. The decks of the vessel were opened by the violence of the elements, so that almost continual pumping was necessary. As the American coast was near, the condition of the vessel became more precarious, until one stormy morning she went down near a rocky island of considerable extent. Nearly all the vessel's crew and passengers who could swim effected an escape to land.

This number, at the time was not supposed to include Mr. Davis although he was known to be an expert swimmer. He did not, however, appear to be drowned. The miserable survivors remained upon the rocky coast about a week, when a second vessel passing, took off what remained of them alive. This ship reached York factory in safety, and reported Mr. Davis as drowned with numerous others. Word was sent to that effect to his family and relatives, and his accounts adjusted with the company. He was a gentleman of some wealth, and his family were left in comfortable circumstances. The vessel remained at York for a month, taking her cargo of furs, and then set sail for England.

As she was passing by the rocky island, the scene of the rescue of the first ship's survivors, the lookout announced that he saw a man sitting upon one of the rocks. The man sitting upon one of the rocks, at first, but the sailor repeated it with so much assurance that the Captain mounted to the cross-trees to look for himself. Sure enough, there was a man sitting on the rocks. The ship at once headed for the island, and anchored. While the anchor was being cast, and the boat manned, the castaway approached the vessel and sat upon the rocks in front of him, as if awaiting the arrival of the boat's crew. He was clothed and apparently in good outward repair, considering the circumstances, and was recognized by the Captain and some of the crew, who knew him as Mr. Davis. They hailed him, but he returned no answer. No particular attention was paid to this, however, and the boat was pulled rapidly to land. What was the astonishment of the crew, when the boat neared the shore, to see Davis leave his seat and run rapidly toward the interior of the island? They landed and pursued him, but failed to overtake him before he became lost to sight among the rocks. A tolerably thorough search of the rocks resulted in no further indications of his presence, and the chase was reluctantly abandoned. Among the more credulous of the sailors it was of course, believed to be Davis' writhe; but the practical Captain and crew, who had known the man well, insisted on his bodily presence, and so reported it in London on their arrival. The story was received somewhat incredulously, however, and finally dropped from mind.

The following season, nevertheless, the lookout of another vessel, made the same discovery and another landing ensued, with the same results. Davis disappeared suddenly, but entirely. He still wore the clothing he had on when wrecked, though in a sadly tattered condition. After that he was seen again in a nude state.

But Davis ran with almost incredible speed, leaping high rocks with apparent ease, and at length escaped from sight altogether. On this occasion he was covered lightly with a coat of hair. In the seventh year the unfortunate man was seen, I believe, for the last time, having then a heavy suit of hair over his entire body, and a beard of great length. He was at the time some fifty-six years of age. The attempts made to capture him, and the circumstances of his condition were little noticed about by the officers of the company on account of his afflicted family, but no one finally expressed the least doubt of his identity, or that he had become crazed under the terrible conditions of his shipwreck. The story reached the writer through a daughter of Mr. Davis, and was corroborated by officers of the company cognizant of the circumstances; so he relies implicitly upon its veracity.

Among the numerous instances which have come to the personal notice of the writer as illustrative of the fact that a visitation of the lost feeling almost invariably produces insanity, and that generally speaking, the higher the order of intelligence (always up to a certain point) of the lost person the more painful, if not fatal, will the insanity prove, I know of none better than the following:

There was employed as a farm hand, in a certain place where the writer resided, a deserter from the United States Army. He was a young man of more than ordinary ability, and tolerably conversant with prairie life. It was the custom of the farmers of that region to cut hay at some distance on the prairie in the rear of their farms, stack it on the spot, and haul it to the larns in the winter as required. In accordance with this established usage, the young man in question was dispatched with ox-wheeled winter's day after hay. He took with him, for the sake of company, a boy belonging to a neighboring farm—a little lad of about twenty years of age, and not particularly bright. They did not expect to be absent over three or four hours. The stacks of hay were distant about two miles from the farm house, on the prairie, and entirely out of sight of fences or other landmarks but a well-beaten track led to the stacks.

About two hours after their departure, a terrific storm arose, rendering objects at a few yards invisible by reason of the swirl of snow driven by the fierce winds. Some fear was entertained about the safety of the lads, but it was thought that by that time they would have reached the stacks, and, by digging into them, could remain in safety till the subsidence of the storm. At all events, no one could go to their relief. The evening wore on with no abatement, they remained out all night. In the morning the ox-team they had driven out were found in the cattleyard. They had their yoke on, and had evidently been loosed and turned adrift. In the afternoon of the day a party was organized to visit the stacks, and with considerable difficulty proceeded there. They found the road entirely obliterated, and the snow drifted in fantastic shapes over the prairie. Reaching the stacks, no trace of either man or boy was found; and a further search of three consecutive days failed of tangible results. On the fourth day, however, they was found under a snow drift, frozen stiff. He had all his clothes on, and was evidently following the trail of the cattle when overcome by the cold. About one hundred yards distant, in a directly opposite direction, the shoes, mittens, cap and outer shirt of the man were found in the snow, but no trace of the owner. The experienced prairie men engaged in the search announced immediately that he had discarded his clothing in a fit of insanity, and discontinued the search as useless. When the snow melted, the castaway was found, the body of the unfortunate man was discovered sitting at the base of a tree on the banks of a stream six miles away. It was entirely destitute of clothing, save a single garment.

Not in Stock.—Three persons were brought up at a police court, a short time ago, for disturbances at an inn. A part of the charge against them was the order given by them for supper.—Solomon took his seat first, placed his hands upon the table, and issued the following:—
Waiter, bring me a dish of fried millstones, and two church steeples, cold without sugar.
George next gave his order:—
A pint of town pumps, done brown, with a spoon in it.
Stephens was next on the list, and ordered as follows:—
Landlord, bring me a quart of station clerks, two fried contractors, and a book-keeper.
Mr. Diver came last, and made the following request:—
Landlord, bring the Thames Tunnel, stuffed with onions, and a pint of South Sea bubbles, warm without.
The simple landlord, after considering a minute, warmly answered:—
"I ain't got 'em, gentlemen," when a row took place.

A more glorious victory cannot be gained over a man than this, that, when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.—Tillotson.

UNDER THE SEAT.

"Smoking car, sir?" asked the tip-expecting porter, as he bore my rug and minor packages along the platform. I said yes, and he made me comfortable, and received his dime. Then the guard came to look after my well-being, but got nothing more than insensible gratitude, which was, perhaps, all he desired. I have no doubt that I did him injustice in attributing his efforts to induce a fat old gentleman with a cough, a lean old gentleman who was snuffy, and a middle-aged gentleman enveloped in wraps, the lower part of whose face was covered up like a female Turk's, an evident window shutter, to enter my car, in order to spite me.

Duty to his employers alone made him endeavor to fill up; but the anxiety to get as much room as possible for my money was strong within me, and stirred uncharitable suspicions.

You may lead a horse to the water, or an antiochian old gentleman to a smoking car, but you can't make him get in; and, when each in turn put his head into my compartment, he jibbed, for some late occupants of it had been cigar, not pipe smokers, and it was rather strange. So I was apparently left alone—alone with all the comic weeklies and a modern poem.

The doors were banged to, the engine whistled, the train began to move. It would not stop again till we got to Peterborough, so that I was safe to be undisturbed so far. There were several seats, and I could occupy as many of them as a limited number of members permitted. I almost wished myself an Egyptian, to take full advantage of the situation. Calming down, I dug up my hat, put on a gaudy piece of needle work won in a bazaar raffle, lit my pipe, cut my papers, and began to enjoy myself.

I sat in the left-hand corner, with my back to the engine, absorbed in a law journal. It is pleasant to read a cross-examination, and watch how a clever lawyer will make an honest man perjure himself. It reads almost like a crime. I remarked aloud, but then it is an honorable, lawful, and beneficial crime. Soldiers kill people's bodies, lawyers kill people's reputations, all for the good of society in the long run.

While I was uttering the word "men," my ankles were grasped suddenly and firmly; then, before I could recover from the shock, they were jerked backward under the seat with such force that I was thrown forward sprawling. I tried to rise, but my right wrist was seized, and the arm twisted till I was helpless, and presently I found myself on the floor of the car, face downward, a sharp knee being scientifically pressed into the small of my back, and both arms fixed behind me. My elbows were tied together, and my ankles were secured. During this latter operation, I kicked and struggled.

"Hum!" said a deliberate voice, "that will be awkward. Let's see; ah, these will do." "These were my sticks and umbrella, which some one proceeded to apply as splints to the backs of my legs, using the straps which had kept them in a bundle to fix them at the ankle and above the knee. When he had done, I was helpless as a trussed turkey. Then I turned over carefully and tenderly, and for the first time saw my assailant. He was a gentlemanly looking man, well dressed in black coat and white waistcoat, and I perceived at once that he was a lawyer, and not a doctor. He proceeded to examine my legs, using the straps which had kept them in a bundle to fix them at the ankle and above the knee. When he had done, I was helpless as a trussed turkey. Then I turned over carefully and tenderly, and for the first time saw my assailant. He was a gentlemanly looking man, well dressed in black coat and white waistcoat, and I perceived at once that he was a lawyer, and not a doctor. 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