

ROSE AYLMER'S GRAVE.

An English grave, health Indian sites, marked by a simple stone...

About her grave no flowers grow, No pleasant bouquets are stirred...

Rose Aylmer's sister flowers should spring In whitest bloom above;

"Ah, what avails the sceptered race, Ah, what the form divine!

Ah, why regret the gloomy hours, The land of banishment?

THE RAVEN.

The Count Stibor was as brave as he was highborn, and riches had poured in upon him until he had become one of the wealthiest nobles in the empire.

The heart of Stibor was merry, for the sport had gone well throughout the day, and when his rude tents were raised, the savory steam of the venison and the sparkle of the wine cup brightened his humor, and he listened, with a smile upon his lip, to the light sallies of the joyous company.

As they talked idly of the day's hunting, however, one wished that the deer had taken another direction; a second that he had not missed a certain shot; a third that he had not lost his couteau de chasse in the underwood.

"Hear me," said the magnificent noble, during a transient pause in the conversation. "I seem to be the only hunter of the day to whom the sport has been without a blemish. It is true that all your misfortunes are light enough, but I will have no shadow cast upon my own joy, and therefore to compensate you for these alleged mishaps, each of you is free to form a wish, and if it be within my power to grant it, I pledge my word that it shall be fulfilled."

A murmur of admiration ran through the astonished circle, and the work of ambition soon began. Gold was the first thing asked for, for avarice is ever the most greedy of all passions, and then revenge upon an enemy, for human nature will often sacrifice personal gain to vengeance, and then power, authority, rule over their fellow men, the darling occupation and privilege of poor, weak, self-misjudging mortals.

"And thou, knave," said the noble, "hast thou nothing to ask? Thou must bestir thyself, or thy master will have little left to give, if the game go on thus."

"Fear not, fear not," replied the fool. "The claimants have been courteous, for they have not touched upon that portion of thy possessions which I covet. They have demanded gold, blood, domain, the power to enjoy themselves, and to render others wretched—they are welcome to all they want. I only ask for stonks."

A loud laugh ran through the circle. "Stonks, Betzko!" echoed the astonished Stibor. "Thou shalt have them to thy heart's content, where and in what shape thou wilt."

"I take thee at thy word, Count Stibor. I will have them yonder on the crest of the bold rock that stands out like a brigant during the foot of man, and in the shape of a good castle in which I may hold my own, should need be," was the untutored reply.

"Thou hast lost thy chance, Betzko," cried a voice amid the universal merriment that ensued. "Not even Stibor can accomplish thy desire."

"Who dares to say that Stibor cannot grant it, if such be his will?" demanded the chieftain in a voice of thunder as he rose proudly from the earth where he had been seated on a couch of skins. "The castle of Betzko shall be built!"

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