

A VISITATION OF GOD.
 Calling on God to Paralyze Him—
 The Challenge Answered.

DOUGLAS, Ga., Jan. 10.—"I hope that God may paralyze me," were the words spoken by William Burkett. At once his hands dropped to his side, his legs refused to move, and his eyes rolled wildly around. His prayer was answered, as he stood paralyzed on the spot where but a few moments before he was a magnificent type of physical manhood. He tried to speak, but his tongue would not move. Half a dozen men, who were present were rendered motionless by the evident visitation of the hand of God. When they recovered self possession they tenderly moved the afflicted man to his residence, a half mile distant. When Miss Rhody Burkett saw the plight in which her father was brought home, she screamed and fainted, and died a few days later. For years Mr. Burkett had been the ferryman on the Hawkinsville road crossing of the Oconulgee River. He was of giant physique, with long gray locks, and became especially noted because of the brace of revolvers which he kept strapped to his waist. He was a great hunter, and the ferry being in the midst of a swamp he was convenient to an abundance of game. From those who lived around him it is learned that he is fearfully profane. Whenever he sighted game and was called off he would pour out such a volley of oaths as would make the flesh of ordinary men crawl. It was while in one of these profane spells he cursed his Creator, and wound up with the expression above quoted.

The news soon spread throughout the country, and scores of people called to see the victim. He was at first completely prostrated, but subsequently was enabled to take a few steps, when he would fall. When spoken to he replies in an inarticulate mumble, and acts in the most idiotic manner. The physicians can ascribe no natural cause for his affliction, but admit that it is a visitation of God. The preachers in the neighborhood have used the incident in their sermons with great effect.

A Sister's Bequest.

An Interesting Story Related in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court yesterday heard a pathetically interesting story which surrounded the law point involved in the appeal of Mary Magoo-han from the decree of the Orphans' Court, which awarded distribution of the estate of her sister, Annie, wife of William C. Fitzpatrick. In anticipation of her maternity Annie Fitzpatrick left \$1,800 to her sister, accompanying the gift with these directions: "In case my child lives save the principal for it and use the interest as you please. See that the child gets a proper education, and do not let it want for anything you can give it. In case it dies you will have the money and no one will know anything about it." The child died soon after its mother, and the father claimed the money under the interstate laws as heir to the child.

The Orphans' Court held that the sister could not have taken the money unless the child had died during its mother's lifetime, and that as the child survived the gift became absolute, and at its death the money went to the father. It was claimed for the sister, in the argument on the appeal, that the words "in case it dies you will have the money and no one will know anything about it" fairly indicated an intention to will the money to the sister in the event of the child's death. The Supreme Court reserved its opinion on the case.—*Palmdale Times.*

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