

THE SARRY GHOST.

Joseph Sarpy owns a fine farm less than a dozen miles from a great western city, and he is at least, if no one else, will bear testimony to the truth of this ghost story; also to the fact that, previous to seeing the ghost, he did not believe there could be such a thing. Although the owner of a farm, he is not a farmer in one sense of the word, but devotes his time to buying and selling stock. This often necessitates long rides into the surrounding country, and sometimes far into the night.

One prominent trait in Mr. Sarpy's character would not go unmentioned. He was always careful to impress upon his friends that he was an out and out temperance man. He believed in temperance, but not in intemperance. The spiritual command, "a ye temperate in all things," he considered applied to eating and sleeping as well as drinking. On the other hand, temperance did not mean total abstinence. This he was certain of, and in accordance with this belief kept a jug of the best bourbon in his cellar, and it was a fact that he would rarely, if ever, grow over the mouth of the jug.

He drank very little, he said, and never got drunk. In fact, he had a profound contempt for a man who would get drunk. Like Jim Benton, on the adjoining farm. He had at various times lectured Jim on the vices of intemperance.

"Why, Jim," he would say, "why don't you stop when you have a dram or two, and not make a beast of yourself? I can take a drink, and I can let it alone, just as I please. If you do that, you'll get along all right." Jim could make no answer to this argument, for when he pleased he could take a drink when he pleased, he knew he could not let it alone when he pleased.

Less than a year before the advent of the ghost Mr. Sarpy had, to the surprise of everybody, married the belle of the neighborhood, Miss Mary Parize. To the surprise, I say, for Mr. Sarpy was a little past the prime of life and not a very prepossessing man in the main, but Mary apparently saw good in him and married him in spite of the warnings of her friends with reference to his habits of taking a dram.

She would break him of it she said, but she found her influence powerless on that score, great as his love seemed to be for her. He would listen attentively to her arguments, and she tried various expedients to convince him of his danger, but he had profound faith in his own ability to stop when his judgment dictated, and would not be convinced.

It was one bitterly cold winter night that the ghost came, and its coming was the harbinger of good. Mr. Sarpy had business in the city that kept him away until a late hour, and Mrs. Sarpy sat by the fire waiting for him. She could usually hear the sound of the horse's hoofs on the stable floor as he went in, but the wind was blowing and moaning so on this night that she could hear nothing but it.

The clock on the mantel had just struck 12 when Mrs. Sarpy heard, above the wind, the faintest whisper that came from the door of the barn. She ran to the window and looked out, but could see nothing of her husband. Again the pistol cracked, and she knew it was inside the barn. Again she heard it, and again, until she had counted seven shots.

She knew that was the number of chambers in Mr. Sarpy's revolver, but could not imagine what he was shooting at, unless it might be a tramp, as they often lodged in the barn, and he had had trouble with one of them not long ago.

While she was still ordering and anxious, Mr. Sarpy came running across the yard and burst into the room exclaiming: "Give me the lantern, Mary; there must be a ghost in the barn. I've put seven bullets into it and it didn't budge."

This news both astonished and alarmed Mrs. Sarpy, who hurriedly lit the lantern, saying: "Why, Joseph, what is it?"

"That's more than I can tell. It's something that looks like a man on one of the night timbers, and it keeps moving all the time like as if it was hurt. I heard it the first thing when I went in after oats for the horse. I thought it was some crazy tramp had gotten up there, but, by George, it was the ghost!"

He had by this time relaxed the revolver, and, jerking up the lantern, he hurried off toward the barn.

Now, it happened that Mrs. Sarpy was an uncommonly shrewd little woman. She had noticed an unusual light in Mr. Sarpy's eyes, and that his hands trembled greatly as he loaded his pistol. This, however, might have been due to the excitement of seeing the ghost.

She threw a shawl around her shoulders and hurried after him, determined to see the ghost too. Mr. Sarpy was cautiously entering the barn door when she came in sight, and she waited outside, listening for the crack of a revolver, but none came. She looked tremblingly within, and there saw Mr. Sarpy standing up in the haymow, holding the lantern above his head and gazing in great perplexity at something on one of the cross-timbers near the roof.

"What is it?" Mrs. Sarpy asked.

"Plagued if I can tell what it is! It's no ghost, that's sure! Come up and see if you can tell!"

Mrs. Sarpy had no need to climb into the mow. She instantly recognized the ghost, and exclaimed: "Why, that's nothing but a pile of sacks you put up there to keep the rats from gnawing them."

"That's so, yes," said Mr. Sarpy, in astonishment; "but what was that sound I heard? There it is now."

"That's nothing in the world," said Mrs. Sarpy, shaking with laughter, "but the wind blowing through that rotten window. You know it a ways means that way when the wind blows hard from the north."

Mr. Sarpy climbed down from the mow, saying: "I don't know what's the matter with me to-night. I must be out of my head. I've shot all those wheat sacks full of holes."

Mrs. Sarpy deftly thrust her hand into his pocket, and drew out a flask nearly empty. Her face became sallow in an instant, and she said: "That's what's the matter, Joseph! You took one dram too many at last. Mr. Sarpy made no reply. He went off to feed the horse, and as he did so debated with himself whether he could possibly have been drunk, as Mary had intimated. It had been such a bitter cold night, and he had suffered so from the cold, that he had taken more than he had supposed, as the almost empty flask proved. He entered the house and found Mrs. Sarpy sitting by the fire crying. He had no reason to ask her the cause of her grief. He divined her thoughts. If it had been due to this already, what would it be in the course of years?"

Nothing was said that night and the next morning when Mr. Sarpy went into breakfast, he was greatly surprised to find Mrs. Sarpy apparently in the gayest humor, laughing and talking as if nothing unpleasant had happened. He was glad to see that she took such a sensible view of matters, as

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The Times says: Mr. Cleveland's inaugural address is dignified, simple and forcible. It has in it the tone of sincerity and of earnestness that has come to be regarded as characteristic of the man. It is clear that he enters on the duties of his office with a sense of responsibility to the whole country, and the whole country will receive with hearty and grateful assent his declaration of principle.

The Standard says: Mr. Cleveland's address is a document that every citizen should ponder for himself. Many good bits of common sense and sound political philosophy are to be found in it. The Democrats are now to try their hands at the wheel in giving practical effect to these views, because the people have elected a Republican President for the Republic to heed to President's appeal and sacrifice their spleen to patriotic thought, that whatever party he may be, he is at least best for us, and that it is at least for an experimental change.

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March April May

When the weather grows warmer, that extreme tired feeling, want of appetite, dullness, languor, and lassitude, afflict almost the entire human family, and several other diseases caused by humors, manifest themselves with many. It is impossible to throw off this debility and expel humors from the blood without the aid of a reliable medicine like Hood's Sarsaparilla. "I could not sleep, and would get up in the morning with hardly life enough to get out of bed. I had no appetite, and my face would break out with pimples. I bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and soon began to sleep soundly; could get up without that tired and languid feeling, and my appetite improved." R. A. SANFORD, Kent, O. "I had been much troubled by general debility. Last spring Hood's Sarsaparilla proved just the thing needed. I derived an immense amount of benefit. I never felt better." H. F. MILLET, Boston, Mass.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

"For seven years, spring and fall, I had scrofulous sores come out on my legs, and for two years was not free from them at all. I suffered very much. Last May I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and before I had taken two bottles, the sores healed and the humor left me." C. A. ARNOLD, Arnold, Me. "There is no blood purifier equal to Hood's Sarsaparilla." E. S. PHILLIPS, Rochester, N. Y.

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Just Close Enough. "Have a close shave, sir?" "No, thanks, not very close. At least not quite so close as the last Presidential election." Your correspondent had just announced himself luxuriously in a chair in the neat barber shop, No. 1327 Morgan street, St. Louis, and was slaking into drink when the above question and the necessary answer broke the spell. "That election did go away down to the skin, sir, and no mistake," said Barber Bowie, gently rubbing the cream lather through the tough stubble on my chin; "I had half a notion to put a skin 'election shave,' outside of the door, but concluded not to."

"To prevent the subject," said I, "if somebody would invent an arrangement which would relieve a barber from the fatigue of standing, and make him as comfortable as the man he is shaving, what a blessing it would be to the profession, wouldn't it?" "I don't ask you expect that," replied Mr