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TERMS INVARIABLY CASH.

Selected Poetry.

OUTSIDE THE ALE-HOUSE.

O, don't go in to-night, John— Now, husband don't go in!

There's not a loaf at home, John— There's not a cork, you know—

When we were courting, frow, Had arm as strong, or step as firm,

But drink had stole your strength, John— And paled your cheeks to white,

His tottering made your young firm tread, And bowed your manly height.

You'll not go in to-night, John, I mind, When we were courting, frow,

Had arm as strong, or step as firm, But drink had stole your strength, John—

And paled your cheeks to white, His tottering made your young firm tread,

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last place on earth where one would have expected to encounter anything mysterious or unnatural; for it was in China, the country of ideal dullness and practicality, that I witnessed the phenomenon I have hitherto been unable to account for satisfactorily.

In order to understand the whole case I must begin at a much earlier period of my life than that at which the circumstance I am about to relate occurred.

"When I was about sixteen years old, and at school at Eaton, I was seized with a most ardent desire to enter the army, and in frequent letters implored my father to let me leave Eaton and go to a private tutor's, where I might undergo a special preparation for the military profession."

My father for a long time opposed the idea, as he wished me to go to the bar; and as I was not an over-diligent boy, imagined that in the army I should not do anything except smoke and run into debt.

At last my impetuosity led him to compromise, and I was removed from Eaton, but not to a military tutor's; I was sent to a clergyman in the west of England, who received a very limited number of pupils, and who was to teach me thoroughly such subjects as would fit me for the army, in case I remained steadfast to my wishes, or which otherwise might be useful in a civil career.

When I arrived at Dr. Warnborough's I found there only two pupils, one named Charles Granger, and another who left soon after I joined; Granger and I in a short time became warm friends; we rode together, hunted together, had no secrets from each other, and for eighteen months were almost inseparable.

Dr. Warnborough and his wife were a most kind, good-hearted couple, and made us most comfortable in every way, an attention, I am afraid, we did not always reciprocate, for we were both rather wild and foolish, although I must do Charles the justice to say that in all scrapes I was the leader and cause.

One incident which amused us much at the time I may mention, en passant. The village in which Dr. Warnborough's rectory was situated abounded with cats, against which we two boys declared a war of extermination.

Many fell before our air-guns (bought surreptitiously at an ironmonger's in the neighboring town) before the bright idea struck me of making a rug of their skins; but the idea when it did come up in my not over well stocked brain, was regarded, both by myself and Charles, as quite equal to Watt's conception of the steam engine, or, what interested us more, the invention of air guns.

Naturally my idea was soon acted upon; the next cat that we killed was skinned with our pocket-knives, the body buried, and all seemed well, when a new difficulty arose. How were the skins to be dried? It would not be safe to place them in any of the outhouses, for the doctor might find them, and would lecture us on what would appear to him, cruelly, although to us it seemed only in obedience to the dictates of youthful nature that we should kill the cats.

I was sitting in the armchair, which had its back towards the door. After being asleep about an hour, and a little before ten o'clock, as I afterwards found by my watch, I was aroused by a sudden cry from Charles. On awaking, I distinctly saw Dr. Warnborough, dressed in his morning gown, walk across the room from the end of the parlor through the door or by opening it and closing it after him; in my surprise I could not see which.

"A few moments sufficed to completely awake me, and I rushed out of the door to try to perceive something more of the extraordinary vision; but all was still and undisturbed in every part of the house. Charles and I discussed the matter very seriously. He informed me that he had awoke and seen the doctor standing looking at him, the sight caused him to call out and thus awaken me. We neither of us believed in ghosts, but were much depressed and puzzled by this strange appearance, which we resolved to attribute to one, in case it might reach Mrs. Warnborough's ears and give her pain. Often and often we talked to each other, however, on the subject, and ultimately made a compact that if it were possible, whichever of us died first should appear to the other after death.

In a few months after this I was removed from Mr. Warnborough's, and at the same time Granger went abroad to look after his father's business in Austria for six or seven years I was quartered with my regiment in several parts of the United Kingdom; I occasionally saw Granger when we both happened to come to London together, which was not often; but in the excitement of early military life, I thought no more of optical delusions, and almost forgot my compact with Granger and the vision of Dr. Warnborough. I was afterwards sent to India, where I still received occasional letters from Granger; but different tastes and pursuits rendered our correspondence infrequent and uncertain.

When the expedition to Pekin was determined on in 1860, the cavalry regiment to which I was attached without incident at China, and we arrived without incident at Tientsin Bay, where the English army were disembarked in order to wait for the French, previous to a common descent on China at the mouth of the Peiho. The shores of Tientsin Bay did not afford facilities for encamping the whole army together, on account of the small space between the beach and a high rocky range of mountains which ran along the bay at a distance of about half a mile from the sea in some places, but near ran close down to the water in others. The cavalry were encamped at an open part of the shore, where there was room for their camp between the hills and high water mark. Another portion of the army occupied a similar encampment about six miles further up the bay.

"On account of the rocks running down to the sea between the two camps, there was no road or means of communication along the shore; the only way to go from one camp to the other was to pass through a gap in the hills behind our camp, where we always had a picket, ride about five miles across the plain, and re-enter the hills by another gap behind the infantry camp, where pickets were also regularly stationed. I had many friends in the neighboring camp, and was often invited there, and frequently stopping to dine, and riding back at night. These expeditions were not, I believe, known by the superior authorities, who would probably have stopped my evening rides beyond the sentries, as it was not certain whether the country was infested with Tartars, who might have carried off any stragglers; but trusting to a revolver and my Arab horse, I had individually no fear of being taken, even if attacked.

"One night I had been over to the infantry, and had stayed till about eleven o'clock, when I started to ride home. There was a tolerable bright moon shining, and I trotted quickly through the hills, past the infantry picket, and into the plain, where I drew my horse into a walk and smoked a cheroot while he walked quietly along the smooth turf. About half way across the plain I was aroused from a deep reverie in which a certain lady in England, who is now my wife, took a prominent place, by my usually quiet horse manifesting an inclination to bolt. I attributed his restiveness to a desire to get home, but was astonished, after I had quieted him, to find him burst into a cold sweat and tremble violently. Fearing he was ill, I was about to dismount, when a noise behind me struck upon my ear. I looked around and saw a human figure walking behind me at a distance of about a hundred yards. My impression was that I was about to be attacked by some Tartars, so I got my revolver out and urged my horse with difficulty into a trot. In a few minutes I again looked behind, expecting to have left my pursuer far in the distance, but to my great surprise he had walked faster than my horse could trot, and had gained upon me. I was more astonished still when, as he continued to gain on me, I perceived he was dressed in ordinary evening costume, especially as I did not think a dress of that kind could have been found in the whole army, for we always all wore a uniform adapted to the climate, and had little enough baggage allowed us without carrying any superfluities.

"My follower still continued to gain on me, and I was so much astonished that I continued to gaze on him as, coming nearer and nearer, he became more distinctly visible. When he was within a few yards I saw that the front of his shirt was entirely covered with something red, which looked to me as if a bottle of port had been spilled over it. Nearer and nearer he came; slowly and steadily the moon, high up in the sky, but directly on the way I was going, came from behind a slight cloud, just as he reached my girths. She shone full on a very pale face, which was turned up to mine, on a month from which blood was slowly issuing, and on a pair of eyes which, although now they appeared fierce and staring, I well knew, it was Charles Granger. Still he walked steadily but quickly; he passed my horse's shoulder, then his head. The poor brute shook as if he were going to fall.

"I was so surprised that I could not speak, nor did I remember that I held a pistol in my right hand. When the spectre for so I then thought of it) had passed on, I could distinctly see it in front of me walking away from me, but straight along the path I was pursuing. Then I recovered my presence of mind and called after him; in vain I implored, imprecated, and threatened to fire if he did not stop; but on he went steadily, though quickly, without appearing to hear me. I then urged my horse (who had recovered from his fright,) into a canter and pursued, but could not gain on my extraordinary fellow traveller; the faster I cantered and even galloped the faster he went; but he never ran, his movement was always a long steady stride. After a pursuit of about ten minutes, I saw the sentry of the outpost at the pass of the hills leading to our camp standing directly in the path th figure was pursuing; loudly I called to let no one pass. I saw the sentry bring his musket to a charge when the apparition was within thirty yards or so of him, heard his cry, 'Turn out the guard!' The men who were loitering near fell in almost instantaneously and quite close the pass in the rocks when the figure appeared to fade away. I hastened forward and asked the sentry:

"Did you see a man walking in front of me?" "No sir," was the answer, "no one has been past here to night since we mounted." "Why did you turn out the guard?" said I. "Because I saw you galloping and calling out, sir, and I thought you were being chased by Chinamen." "The sergeant and other soldiers fully confirmed the sentry's assertion that no person had passed their post; and as I did not wish to be thought absurd, I simply said I supposed I had been mistaken, and rode into camp without seeing any thing more of the figure of Granger."

FUN, FACTS AND FACETIE.

The best game for a blacksmith to play is old stage.

The two Kings that rule in America, —Joking and Smoking. —Vice in Republics.

WHAT TOWN in Ireland would an Irishman name to a fellow-countryman when in the act of "boozing" him? —Down, Patrick.

WHO KNOWS? —Quick wonders if "eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty," what the price of better will be by the time grass gives out. —Quin Solo.

A WELSH paper recently contained the following in its notices to correspondents: "Truth is crowded out of our columns this week."

A CERTAIN barrister, who was remarkable for coming into court with dirty hands, observed "that he had been turning over Coke. "Coke?" exclaimed a smiling brother. "I should have thought it was coals!"

BENES asked Jennings, a few days ago, if she had seen her "vegetable friend?" "My vegetable friend? Who is that?" "Why the young man I met with yesterday, who has every hair, reddish whiskers, and a turn-up nose."

A CORRESPONDENT introduces a piece of poetry to us with these words: "The following lines were written more than fifty years ago, by one who has for many years slept in his grave serenely for his own amusement."

DEEPLY were we affected, on reading the other day, of a young lady, who being told that her lover was suddenly killed, "O! that splendid gold watch of his—give me that—give me something to remember him by!" Touching simplicity.

A LAWYER once pleaded with great ability the cause of his client for nearly an hour. When he had done, his antagonist, with supercilious sneer, said he did not understand a word the other said, who merely replied, "I believe it, for I was speaking law."

A GRAVE STONE in the cemetery at Newburyport, marks the resting place of an estimable lady, who, according to the inscription, "was in state of health suddenly summoned to the skies, and watched from ye eager embrace of her friends by swallowing a Tea at her own table, when in a very few hours she sweetly breathed her soul away."

"WIFE," said a married man looking for the bootleg, after she was in bed. "I have a place for all things, and you ought to know it by this time." "Yes," replied she, "I ought to know where you keep your late hours, but I don't." He hit her.

VERY LIKE. —An unsophisticated countryman the other day, coming in Washington with a load of wood, saw a military officer, followed at a respectful distance by two orderlies, in full gallop, and exclaimed, "What is that?" "That is the general," said he. "I was in about three weeks ago, and they was a-runnin' after him then."

FAME. —Thackeray when speaking about fame, would frequently tell the following anecdote: When at dinner, in St. Louis, one day, he heard the waiter say to another, "Do you know who that is?" "No," was the answer to that. "That is the celebrated Mr. Thackeray." "What is he doing?" "Beside, if I know," was the reply.

A COLONEL of one of the regiments attached to the Army of the Potomac was recently complaining at an evening party that, from the ignorant conduct of the officers, he was obliged to do the whole duty of the regiment. Said he: "I am my own major, my own captain, my own lieutenant, my own sergeant, and—" "Your own trumpeter," said a lady present.

A JARRENT was promulgating in full armor one day, and approached a volunteer on sentry, who challenged him with, "Halt! who comes there?" The lieutenant, with contempt in every lineament of his face, expressed his ire with the remark, "As! The sentry's reply, apt and quick, came, 'Advance, ass, and give the counter-sign.'"

The following dialogue is said to have taken place recently between a married couple on their travels: "My dear, are you comfortable in your quarters?" "Quite, thank you, my dear." "Sure there's plenty of room for you?" "Quite, sure, love." "And no cold air from the window by your ear?" "Quite certain, darling." "Then, my dear, I'll change places with you."

A RICH petroleum worker, grant as a skeleton one day, and approached a volunteer on sentry, who challenged him with, "Halt! who comes there?" The lieutenant, with contempt in every lineament of his face, expressed his ire with the remark, "As! The sentry's reply, apt and quick, came, 'Advance, ass, and give the counter-sign.'"

Why is a favorite singer's voice like a crown? —Because it's replete with precious tones.

The beautiful tresses of young ladies are now called bean-stings.

The tongue was intended for a divine organ, but the devil often plays upon it.

The coat of a horse is the gift of nature—that of an ass is often the work of a tailor.

"Where do you hail from?" queried a Yankee of a traveler. "Where do you rain from?" "Don't rain at all," said the astonished Jonathan. "Neither do I hail, so mind your own business."

A PHILADELPHIA editor affirms that the poetical age of women is thirty, when they begin to love conscientiously.

In the sinner's life the roses perish, and the thorns are left; in the good man's the thorns die, and the roses live.

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy: the first is a strong will, the last a strong will.

Though the proverb says you cannot make an angel hole with a ginnet, yet a small man may make a great bore.

What is the difference between a Northern and Southern gentleman? —One backs his own boots, and the other boots his own back. (That was before the war.)

DISEASE AND DEATH CAUSED BY EATING PORK.

A few months ago there was a festive celebration in Hettstadt, a small country town near the Hartz Mountains, in Germany.

Twenty-five of a hundred persons set down to an excellent dinner, and having enjoyed themselves *à propos*, separated and went to their homes.

Of these one hundred and three persons, mostly men in the prime of life, eighty-three are now in their graves; the majority of the twenty survivors linger with a fearful malady; and a few only walk apparently unscathed among the living, but in hourly fear of an outbreak of the disease which has carried away such numbers of their fellow-diners.

They had all eaten of a poison at that festive board, the virulence of which far surpassed that of a reported case of *typhus*, or of the more tangible agents described in toxicological text-books. It was not a poison dug out of the earth, extracted from plants, or prepared in the laboratory of the chemist. It was not a poison administered by design or negligence. But it was a poison unknown to all concerned; and was eaten with the meat in which it was contained, and of which it formed a living constituent.

When the festival at Hettstadt had been finally determined upon, and the dinner had been ordered at the hotel, the keeper of the tavern arranged his bill of fare. The introduction of the third course, it was settled, should consist, as usual in those parts of the country, of *Rosbeef* and *Genoise*. The *Rosbeef* was, therefore, ordered at the butcher's necessary number of days beforehand, in order to allow of its being properly smoked. The butcher, on his part, went expressly to a neighboring proprietor, and bought one of two pigs from the steward, who had been commissioned with the transaction by his master. It appears, however, that the steward, unfortunately, sold the pig which the master had not intended to sell, as he did not deem it sufficiently fat or well-conditioned. Thus the wrong pig was sold, carried on a barrow to the butcher, killed and worked up into sausages were duly smoked and delivered at the hotel. There they were fried and served to the guests at the dinner table.

On the day after the festival, several persons who had participated in the dinner were attacked with irritation of the intestines, loss of appetite, great prostration and fever. The number of persons attacked rapidly increased; and great alarm was excited in the first instance by the appearance of an impending epidemic of typhus or continued fever, with which the symptoms observed showed great similarity. But when, in some of the cases treated by the same physician, the features of the illness began to indicate at first, acute peritonitis, then pneumonia of a circumscribed character, next paralysis of the intercostal muscles and the muscles in front of the neck, the hypothesis of septic fever, though sustained in other cases, had to be abandoned with respect to these particular cases.

Some unknown poison was now assumed as the cause of the outbreak; and an active inquiry into all the circumstances of the dinner was instituted. Every article of food and material was subjected to a most rigid examination, without any result in the first instance. But when the symptoms in some of the cases invaded the muscles of the leg, particularly the calves of some of the sufferers, the description which Zenker had given of a fatal case of trichinosis disease was remembered. The remnants of sausage, and of pork employed in its manufacture, were examined with the microscope, and found to be littered swarmed with encysted trichinae. From the suffering muscles of several of the victims small pieces were excised, and under the microscope found charged with embryonic trichinae in all stages of development. It could not be doubted any longer, that as many of the one hundred and three as had partaken of *Rosbeef* had been infested with trichinosis disease by eating of trichinosis pork, the parasites of which had, at least in part, escaped the effects of smoking and frying.

This awful catastrophe awakened sympathy and fear throughout the whole of Germany. Most of the leading physicians were consulted in the interest of the sufferers, and some visited the neighborhood where most afflicted patients remained. But none could bring relief or cure. With an obstinacy unsurpassed by any other infectious or parasitic disease, trichinosis carried its victims to the grave. Many anatomists were arrayed to destroy, if not the worms already in the flesh, at least those yet remaining in the intestinal canal. Picro-acid was employed until its use seemed as dangerous as the disease; benzole, which had promised well in experiments upon animals, was tried, but was unavailing. As patient after patient died off, and the dissection of each proved the parasites to have been quite unaffected by the agents employed, the conviction was impressed upon every mind that a man afflicted with flesh-worm is doomed to die of the slow death of exhaustion from nervous irritation, fever, and loss of muscular power in parts of the system essential to existence.

But medical science had only just unraveled a mystery; and if it could not save the victims, it was determined at least to turn the occasion to the next best account. The cases were therefore observed with care and chronicled with skill. All the multifarious features of the parasitic diseases were registered in such a manner that there can hereafter be no difficulty in the diagnosis of this disorder. A valuable diagnostic feature was repeatedly observed, namely, the appearance of the flesh-worm under the thin mucous membrane on the lower side of the tongue. The natural history of trichinosis in man was found to be the same as that in animals.

All observations led to the conviction that the trichinae encysted in the flesh is in the condition of puberty. Brought into the stomach, the calcareous capsule is digested with the flesh, and the trichinae are set free. It probably feeds upon the walls of the intestines themselves, for the irritation of the intestines begins before the bringing forth of young trichinae has taken place. Copulation is immediately effected; and within a few hours, or a short portion of days, from sixty to eighty live embryos leave the female, and begin their own career of destruction.

The Swedes are a gay race. Balls, soirees, and card-playing enliven the long winter. The people are fond of music, and sing well. One of the bores to which a stranger has to submit is that of taking off his hat when he enters a shop or public house, and keeping it off as long as he stays. In the streets you lift your hat to every acquaintance, so that it is almost as much off the head as on. Cleanliness is a virtue much cultivated, and the uncarpeted floors are as clean as a man-of-war's deck. As mats and scrappers are rare, goshaws are worn by visitors, which they slip off before entering the room in wet or snowy weather, lest the thaw from the nails on the shoes should leave its mark in little pools on the floor. Touching the Sabbath (for so we must call it), the Swedes reckon it to begin on Saturday, and end at six p. m. on Sunday; but, in practice, the evening of Saturday is quite as secular as the morning; while the evening of Sunday is the fashionable time for ball, concert, and theatre. The people are hard drinkers; the consumption of native brandy being about two gallons and a half for every man, woman, and child in the country. Yet they are rarely seen drunk, for the laws against drunkenness are severe.

This consists, in the first instance, in an attempt to pierce the walls of the intestinal canal. Great inflammation of the entire surface ensues, ending not rarely in death of the villous or mucous membrane, or in the formation of masses of pus on its surface. Sometimes there are bloody stools. But these severe symptoms only ensue when much trichinosis meat has been eaten; when less has been consumed, pain and uneasiness in the abdomen are produced, accompanied, however, in all instances by wasting fever and prostration. The embryos actually pierce the intestine, and are found free in the effusion, sometimes scoured, sometimes purulent, which is always poured out into the abdominal cavity. Thence they again proceed towards the periphery of the body, pierce the peritoneum, causing great irritation, and sometimes peritonitis, to the extent of gluing the intestines together to a coherent mass. They next proceed to the muscles nearest to the abdomen; arrived at the elementary muscular fibres, which, under the microscope, appear as long cylinders with many transverse striations, they pierce the membrane, enter the fibres, and, after devouring and digested contents, consume a great part of the granular detritus, moving up and down in the fibres until grown to the size necessary for passing into the quiescent state. They then roll up in spiral or other irregular windings, the bags of the muscular fibres collapse, and only where the trichinae lie a calcareous matter is deposited, perhaps by the trichinae themselves, which hardens into perfect capsules round the parasites. A muscular fibre may harbor one or several parasites; but every fibre invaded by a single parasite loses its character entirely, and becomes a bag of detritus from one end to the other.

If it be remembered that one ounce of meat filled with trichinae may form the stock from which in a few days three millions of worms may be bred, and that stricken muscular fibres, an idea of the extent of destruction produced by these parasites can be formed. We are not in a position to say to what proportion of the fifty or sixty pounds of muscle required for the performances of the human body these two millions of elementary fibres actually amount. In the muscles nearest to the abdomen the destruction is sometimes complete that not a fibre free from parasites can be found. This amounts to complete paralysis. But death is not always produced by the parasites; it is mostly the result of paralysis, peritonitis, and irritative fever combined. No case is known to which trichinosis, after having declared itself, became arrested. All persons affected have either died, or are in such a state of prostration that their death is very probable.

Most educated people in Germany have, in consequence of the Hettstadt tragedy, adopted the laws of Moser and do not keep in any form. To some of the largest breeders in Westphalia, who keep as many as two thousand pigs, the falling of the price of pork has been a ruinous—at the least a serious—loss. In the dining-rooms of the hotels in the neighborhood of Hettstadt notices are hung up announcing that pork will not be served in any form in these establishments. To counteract this panic, the farmers' club of the Hettstadt district gave a dinner, at which no other meat but pork was eaten. But it has had no appreciable effect. The raw ham and sausages of Germany are doomed to extinction; the smoked and dried sausages must necessarily be avoided.

In the south of Germany some people now say that it is the Hungarian pigs which are most frequently affected with trichinae. This rumor, like the famous pork dinner of the farmers' club, may, however, have been set up with the intention of quieting apprehension about the native pigs. We have already mentioned the accident which befel the crew of a merchant vessel. They shipped a pig at Valparaiso, and killed it a few days before their arrival at Hamburg. Most of the sailors ate of the pork in one form or another. Several were affected with trichinae and died. Of those whose fate could be inquired into, only one seems to have escaped the parasites. Another outbreak in Saxony has carried away twelve persons. A fourth wholesale poisoning by trichinae is just reported from Offenbach, the Birmingham of Hesse-Darmstadt. Of upwards of twenty persons infested, three had already died when our correspondent's letter fell.

Numerous sporadic cases of fever, and epidemics of inscrutable peculiarity, but referred to an anomalous type of fever, are now claimed by medical authors, and with much show of reason, to have been outbreaks of trichinosis, or flesh-worm disease. Several German physicians experimentalized with a view of finding a cure for this horrible disorder. Professor Eckhardt at Giessen, we are told, has obtained permission to try the disease and supposed remedies upon a murderer under sentence of death. We have not been told whether his reward in case of success is to be a commutation of his capital sentence, but should hope this to be the case. The experiment, even if it should not have the tonic character indicated, will probably teach some curious details of the life of these parasites. At almost everywhere the commonest rules of cleanliness are disregarded in the rearing of pigs. Yet pigs are naturally clean animals, avoiding, like dogs and cats, all contact with ordure. Though they burrow in the earth, and in summer wallow in the mud, they abhor the heaps of excrements mixed with straw in and upon which they are frequently kept. A due regard to cleanliness will prevent trichinae in the pig. In wild boars, of which many are eaten in the country around the Hartz mountains, trichinae has never been found. Neither has it been met with in sheep, oxen, or horses. Beef is the safest of all descriptions of meat, as no parasites have ever been discovered in it. They have also never been found in the blood, brain, or heart of those animals in whose striated muscles they love to reside.—British Medical Journal.

Miscellaneous.

THE STORY I HEARD IN THE SMOKING-ROOM.

Were staying a large party at Thornton Court, at the beginning of the pleasant-shooting season, when I heard an account of an optical delusion, which is of such a novel character that I can hardly suppose it will not be interesting to many people. The ladies had gone, or at least were supposed to have gone, to bed; for I have often, on my way back from the smoking-room, at an hour when all but a few confirmed lovers of the weed are believed to be asleep in a country house, heard through the doors, which communicate between the corridors, sounds of voices and of laughter, which have led me to imagine proceeded from sleeping occupants, and which have led me to believe that the vague stories we hear of little chats by members of the fairer sex over their bed-room fires are not altogether unfounded.

At any rate every one had left the drawing-room; one by one, smokers in every variety and every color of smoking-jacket and of dressing-gown, had dropped into the before-mentioned sanctuary of tobacco, or two boxes' brushes, and shut off the house by double baize doors, we formed a part of about half a dozen round the cheerful fire which the chilly days of early October rendered quite acceptable. After all the members of the social community were supplied with cigars and large glasses, which contained various compounds of effervescent waters, and had settled into their chairs, we chattered over the pheasants, the prospects of hunting, the merits of some well-known race horses, and such other subjects as form the staple of conversation turned upon ghost and spiritualism. All discussed the subject except the usually conversational Col. Houghton, who silently pulled away at a large cigar and gazed steadfastly into the fire.

"Come, Houghton," at last said Randon, our host, "what is your opinion on the subject?"

"I certainly have not the least belief in ghosts, but a most curious case once occurred to myself for which I have never been able to account," was the reply.

"Oh, let us hear it by all means," cried several, charmed with the idea of getting Houghton, who was rather skeptical in most matters, to tell a ghost story.

"I have never told it, but I think that now I can do so, as, by giving other than the real names of the men I fancied I saw after their deaths, no one now will be able to tell who they were," was the reply.

Several new cigars were lighted, some glasses were replenished, and we disposed ourselves to listen, when Col. Houghton, looking very grave, and with an expression I have never before seen on his face, began his tale:

"I must tell you that my adventure occurred in a country, which I think is the