

# The House of Ghosts

Remarkable  
Tale of  
San Francisco's  
Early Days

IN the extreme north of the city of San Francisco there stands a little Swiss cottage in practically the same state as it stood in 1856. When it was built, it was far from the city, and even now the locality has but few houses. But here, in the days long gone, took place one of the most startling spirit manifestations in the history of the nation.

The house was built in 1851 by J. P. Manrow, a well known civil engineer. Those were the days when San Francisco was in the control of desperadoes. Then came the assassination of James King of William, and the storm of indignation broke out. The second vigilance committee was organized. It dealt death and banishment to the lawless. Casey and Cora had been recently executed; Terry had been imprisoned and released.

J. P. Manrow, then forty years of age, was in the front of the excitement of the fifties and was made judge advocate of the vigilance committee. Among his friends in those violent times were William H. Rhodes, an attorney then contributing over the pen name of Caxton stirring letters to the Bulletin, and Almarin Brooks Paul, a mining engineer, who, with Rhodes and Washington Bartlett, afterward governor of the state, was publishing the True Californian, a daily newspaper.

These men met frequently at the headquarters of the vigilance committee, and it was there that one day Manrow mentioned the fact that extraordinary things had been happening at his

house, on Larkin street. His two friends, Rhodes and Paul, then active and spirited young men of thirty-two, became intensely interested.

The story, as told by Manrow, was one of supernatural visitations, rappings, table tipping, and so on. There seemed to be a persistent and malign influence connected with the house. Acts of spite and mischief and elfish pranks were played in broad daylight, and, when encouraged by the forming of a "circle," these manifestations became positively uncanny. The two young men listened, but had no explanation to suggest, and at last they determined to investigate the affair for themselves. To this Manrow willingly acceded, and the night of Friday, Sept. 19, 1856, was decided upon for the first visit for experiment.

On the night agreed on the two young men, Rhodes and Paul, went to Mr. Manrow's house, arriving at 8 o'clock. The night was clear and lit with a bright moon. The ladies were called. Mrs. Manrow appeared with her sister, a lady who had lately come from Honolulu, and the six sat down at a table in the library and touched hands.

As soon as the circle was formed, manifestations began to occur. Remarkable as these were, such phenomena have been described by many, and the tale of such occurrences is threadbare. Knocks were heard in all parts of the room, the table was raised and swung in the air or floated a foot from the floor. But, more exciting

scenes were to follow. The lamp had been turned down part way, but the rising moon gave the room a clear, if weak, half light, when suddenly the whole apartment was thrown into commotion. Sofa cushions

were hurled in every direction, books leaped from the shelves, the doorbell was violently rung and every person present was simultaneously struck on head or body with unseen hands. Some had their hair pulled; some were



MR. PAUL KEPT HIS EYES ON THE AWFUL FIGURE.

plucked. Others' tobacco. During the whole of this time the members of the company clasped hands without breaking the circuit. A book was thrown across the room and struck one of the ladies.

Mr. Manrow now proposed that the spirits should wake up a negro servant who slept in the stable, and hardly had this been mentioned when, terrified out of his senses, the man burst open the stable door with a shriek and rushed in his nightshirt down the walk toward the library window. He broke into the kitchen, and immediately the group of watchers in the window perceived a horrible form appear from the ground in front of them. Its countenance was so terrible, so repulsive and so threatening, black and cruel that the whole party except Mr. Paul fled in horror. He watched alone, keeping his eyes on the awful figure, saw it retreat and then suddenly vanish through the wall of the house. As the ladies ran from the room rugs, sofa pillows and books were hurled violently after them. The negro servant could not be persuaded to go back to the stable, but passed the night on the glass window piazza. Mr. Manrow, running to the front door to chase the apparition, found that the front gate had been torn off and placed so as to barricade the door.

The frightened company had hardly courage to go on with the sitting, but at last, expressing a wish to be visited by more peaceful spirits, they sat down again. All present were softly touched and caressed by many hands, their hair was smoothed and their cheeks were patted by hands that became gradually visible, till sometimes a dozen were seen about a single person. Mr. Manrow, who had been suffering from a severe toothache, was treated to a gentle massage by these spirit hands until the pain was entirely removed.

Such were the experiences of the first night, as testified to in person by three of the best known citizens of San Francisco. The succeeding nights, were as remarkable. Similar manifestations occurred and others more wonderful. Watches were taken from the gentlemen's pockets, the ladies' hair was pulled down suddenly, while the company held hands and felt all the while many hands touching their faces.

But the most remarkable feat of all finished the recital. Several times Mr. Paul, sitting quite apart and alone upon a chair, had been violently overthrown upon the floor. One chair in particular, in the corner of the room, absolutely refused to hold him. This aroused his indignation and determination to resist the mysterious force. He audibly defied the visitors to dislodge him and grasped the arms of the chair. Before the words were out of his mouth he was torn out and thrown bodily at full length upon the table with an incredible force.

J. P. Manrow died in this same house many years ago, but long previous to that all demonstrations had stopped.

## NOTES OF NOTABLES.

William C. Whitney of New York has given a handsome house and lot to the physician who attended Mrs. Whitney in her long illness.

Since the conservatory has been removed Henry Pfister, who has been gardener at the White House for thirty-five years, has been dismissed.

The father of Governor Eliot Bates of Massachusetts is a Methodist minister seventy years old, six feet in height and having a fine military bearing.

The New York Yacht club has elected the German emperor and his brother, Prince Henry, honorary members of



A.  
SUITABLE  
XMAS  
GIFT

## Is Sometimes A Hard Thing to Find.

BUT WHO CANNOT USE SOMETHING TO BEAUTIFY THE HOME? A DESK FOR THE BOYS, A DRESSING TABLE OR FANCY CHAIR FOR THE GIRLS, A SIDEBORD FOR MOTHER, A MORRIS CHAIR FOR FATHER, A PICTURE FOR A FRIEND—AND SO ON. IN FACT HUNDREDS OF SUITABLE PRESENTS VARYING IN COST TO SUIT THE PURSE OF THE BUYER. MANY HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR SELECTIONS, AND THOSE WHO COME EARLY BEFORE THE SELECTION IS BROKEN WILL HAVE THE GREATEST VARIETY TO PICK FROM. WE CAN ONLY MENTION A FEW ITEMS HERE:

Dressers, Commodes and Chiffoniers from \$25 down to

4.00

Over 75 different styles of Dining Room Chairs, from \$3.50 down to

50c

Sideboards and Buffets, a fine assortment, from \$35 down to

10.00

Ladies' Desks and Music Cabinets, from \$25 down to

3.00

Over 250 styles of Rockers, from \$25 down to

1.00

Parlor Tables and Stands from \$8 down to

75c

Folding Beds from \$25 down to

12.50

A large assortment of China Closets, Cupboards and Wardrobes, from \$30 down to

4.00

to

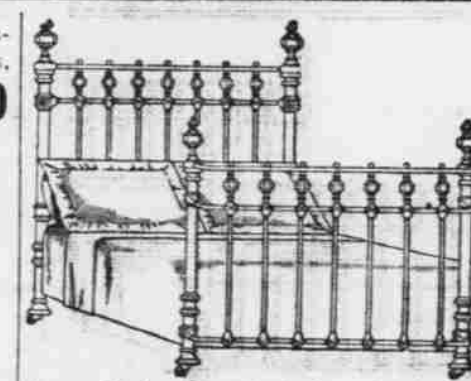
4.00

Bedroom Suits from \$45 down to

15.00

Kitchen Cabinets, with and without China Closets, from \$15 down to

4.00



Iron Beds, in 80 styles, in fancy colors and white, from \$28 down to

2.00

We also carry a large assortment of Easels, Jardinier Stands, Foot Stools, Sofa Pillows, Pictures, Mirrors, China Racks, Children's High Chairs and Rockers, which are selling at less profit than at any other time of the year.

## E. F. Helpenstell's Furniture Store, 1802 Second Avenue.

## The Busiest and Most Popular DRUG STORE

In the city, is that conducted by A. J. Riess at the corner of Seventh avenue and Twenty-seventh street. The most courteous treatment and great carefulness in compounding prescriptions have made it a pleasure to trade at this store. None but the purest drugs are handled, and the purchaser is always sure that he is getting the best there is to be had, a thing of great importance, as so much depends upon the purity of the drugs. Cheap drugs are dear at any price. To let the people become acquainted with our store we are going to hold

### A HOLIDAY SOUVENIR SALE

From now until the New Year. Everyone making a 25 cent purchase or over of anything in the store will receive a souvenir. Over 2,000 souvenirs for the young and old will be given away. When making a purchase you will be entitled to a draw, so when your purchases amount to 50 cents, 75 cents or \$1, you will get two, three or four draws, etc.

Souvenirs will Range in Value from 5 Cents to \$5. See the Souvenirs in Our Big Window.

We have a very complete line of Christmas goods, and with your permission we offer the following suggestions:

For the Baby.	For that Boy.	For Pa and Ma.
DOLL. RATTLE. PUFF BOX. PACIFIER.	POCKET KNIFE. MANICURE SET. BRUSH AND COMB. FOUNTAIN PEN. INK STAND.	PAIR OF GLASSES, (if they need them.) BOX CIGARS. POCKET BOOK.
For that Girl.	For Him.	For Her.
BOX STATIONERY. BOX OF CHOCOLATES. TOILET SET. LEATHER NOVELTIES. PACKAGE PERFUME AND ATOMIZER.	BOX CIGARS. BRUSH AND COMB. COLLAR AND CUFF BOX. SHAVING SET. RAZOR AND STROP. BILL BOOK.	TOOTH BRUSH. BOTTLE PERFUME. CHAMOIS VEST. HAND MIRROR. JEWELRY CASE. BOX TOILET SOAP. GLOVE BOX.

Our line of Holiday Cigars, Candies and Perfume is as large as any to be found in the city. Come and see. Our stock of Tree Trimmings is bright and new. You will be glad you read this if you go to

## REISS' DRUG STORE

2700 Seventh Avenue, Rock Island.

the club, of which King Edward VII. has long been an honorary member.

The new commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, General Stewart, is but fifty-four years old. He enlisted while a boy and served over four years during the war of the rebellion.

J. H. Seaverns, a native of New Jersey, is a candidate for parliament in one of the London districts. He has lived in England for some ten years and recently became a naturalized subject of King Edward.

Isley Ka Isaake Seime, the first Zulu to enter an American university, has succeeded in passing the severe entrance examinations at Columbia and has matriculated for an eight years' course in medicine and surgery.

Jonathan Roberts of Richmond, Ind., is ninety-one years old and has lived all his life on the ground where stood the house in which he was born. Within 100 feet of his home is a log cabin built in 1812 for a schoolhouse, the first in that region of Indiana.

King Edward's reconciliation with the Duc d'Orleans, in spite of the latter's gross insults to the late Queen Victoria, is said to have been due to the intervention of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria and of King Christian of Denmark out of regard to the Duchess of Orleans.

Thomas Fance and John Johns, sailors of the United States navy, are full blooded French Indians, who grew up together on a government reservation. They left home some ten years ago and never met until about a week ago, both having sailed all over the world meantime.

## OVER THE OCEAN.

Many butcher shops in the east of London have been closed because of the high prices of meat.

A lady who advertises in a Surrey (England) newspaper or a kitchen-maid offers the use of a bicycle.

In a report on diseases of the ear in the German army Dr. Villaret recommends prohibition of all diving head-foremost.

The increase in the value of real estate in Berlin is illustrated by the fact that the well known Cafe Bauer had

to pay 115,000 marks rent last year. In its first year, 1877, the rent was only 40,000 marks.

Glasgow (Scotland) corporation decided recently to apply for powers to borrow £750,000 for the erection of houses for the poor.

Twenty villages and thirteen plantations have been established on the 51,540 acres of land acquired during the last twenty years by Jews in Palestine.

A silver penny minted at Bristol, England, in the reign of Edward I. has just been unearthed in that city during some excavations for a new water main.

Japan's latest curiosity is a baby boy who at the age of ten months weighs nearly four stone and is over three feet in stature. His parents have taken him to Tokyo to have him adopted by a wrestler.

## PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

A serious attempt is being made to popularize Shakespeare in Japan.

Mrs. Annie Yeamans is soon to celebrate her fifty-sixth anniversary on the stage.

Ada Rohan has returned to New York. Haddon Chambers is writing a play for her.

Marcella Sembrich is being enthusiastically received in Chicago, where she is giving concerts.

"The Judgment of King Solomon" is being played in New York. It is a play by Dore Davidson.

John Hare has made known his intention to retire from the stage in 1904, when he will be sixty years old.

"Among Those Present." Glen McDougall's new society play, is making good all along the line, as it ought to.

Mrs. Robert Osborn has engaged Powers Gouraud and Marie Allen for parts in her reconstructed production of "Tommy Rot."

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

In buying trees see that they have good, bright, healthy roots and plenty of them.

Fall pruning should not be done until all the leaves are off, as late as possible, provided the work is done before freezing.



Dear Sir—I heard you told the book-keeper I was the worst speller you ever seen. I ain't neither so there. Sadie. New York Evening Journal.

Her Photograph. In your little gilt frame, So lifelike and real, You are always the same, However I feel. From the little gilt frame Neither praise comes nor blame, Though I wildly appeal; You are always the same, In your little gilt frame, However I feel! —New York Times.

Hominy. Indian corn is coming to be more and more in use in this country and in foreign countries. It is being used in various forms and is much more palatable than rice or potatoes. One of the best forms is hominy, but not every cook knows how to have it at its best. It should be boiled a long time—eight or ten hours at least—and it should be put to soak over night before boiling. It requires care and close attention to keep it boiling and not to burn. It need not boil fast. Water is as hot when it boils slowly as when it boils fast (212 degrees F.). With butter or ham fryings it is delicious and a first rate hygienic.

Grapes to keep well must have a tough or strong skin, must be of good quality, well grown and ripened and must have all defective berries cut out before being put away.