

THE DEATH OF THE FAITHFUL DOG JACK.

BY REV. OLIVER GRANT, D. D.

I am dead in my master's arms,
Breathless, red and white, and dead,
Every nerve is on the rack;
Fair would I write gib and giddy,
Fair would I write dead;
We are mourning sore and sadly,
Mourning over faithful Jack.

Jack is dead! I am a good old fellow,
Griggs took and made me over;
For to my friends to friends;
True, he had a trick of snapping,
Nipping round and sometimes snapping
Down on the tail, then, then snapping,
Crouching mock to make amends.

It was Sunday he was taken,
All day long he looked forsaken,
Sighing, groaning, then a moan,
Yet all who we had him barking,
Thought it seemed not worth remarking,
Pompadour, Pompadour.

Larking sly or proving round.

But the dog was sick and dying.

We next morning found him lying,
Breathing quick and heavily;

Some one said he had struck him,

But there lay the dead, in agony.

None I spoke he seemed to know me,

Looked and tried so hard to show me.

That he recognized me still,

Yet I could not help but pity,

Not a person, wise or witty,

Could assist with drug or pill.

Quivered he as upon quivers,

With a pincers, kindred quivers;

With the steel full in his face;

He was poisoned, none could doubt it,

None but the dog could find him,

For what man could be so base?

But the dog was growing weaker,

With a pinches, kindred pinches;

As he forgot;

Yet, as now he fast was failing,

And as hope was failing,

Thought he had a secret quailing,

Reluctant had him shot.

So he died, and consequently—

For we could not keep him—gently

He was buried, and the coachman shielded him,

For unless no man could shield him,

There was buried Jack, the dog.

Far worse we are lonely;

Where he kenned now is only

Silence, undressed and dead;

It was a dog, a glad, a dog,

Always waiting round to meet us,

And, when racing, sure to beat us—

But the dog was sick and dying.

But no dog will stay Jack, attend us,

Watchfully no more defend us;

Now with all the world at peace;

There no pest will infect us;

There no pest will infect us,

There in peaceful slumber rest these,

Till eternal ages come.

DOUBTFUL AQUAINTANCES.

"It is very remarkable," said my uncle, "Mr. Gregory left the room."

"It is very mysterious," said Lily, "and with a secret smile, the averted eyes."

"To me," observed an elderly lady boarder, "it appears to be something mysterious; and, without making any assertions, I would at least caution you, my dear, against any closer intimacy with one who seems so often to be possessed of information in a manner of which there is no conceivable natural explanation."

"It reminds me most," said the Rev. Mr. Briggs, "of certain cases, undoubtedly authenticated, in which the existence of the so-called 'second sight' has been demonstrated in a very singular manner."

"And," added my uncle, "although many of the professors of Spiritualism have been proved impostors, it by no means follows that all—"

"Yes, yes," broke in my lady friend, "but we all know that people once had dealings with familiar spirits, and I never could find any proof that this kind of thing has ever ceased, and therefore, as I said before, I very strongly caution you—"

"'Hush!' cried several voices. 'Here comes.'

My uncle, my Cousin Lily and I were staying at a boarding-house at the sea-side, and among a somewhat numerous company was a certain Mr. Gregory. We had been told to expect him the night of our arrival in a rather cynical manner. He was passing our room just as Lily was calling to me in a tone of woful despair that she had broken the key in the lock and could not get out. Through the key-hole he had volunteered his services as an amateur lock-picker, and released us from our imprisonment.

The introduction had been quite as well as possible, and I found it necessary to have done to inquisitive what promised to be a pleasant seaside acquaintance. Now on first sight he certainly presented a very little appearance of being a suspicious or dangerous character. He was a young man of some 25 years of age, with a bright, frank expression and a gleam of mischief in his eyes. He was exceedingly intelligent and well informed, and, though I was not in the company of any of our established members, could, we discovered, sing well, read well and talk well. Without in-trusting himself upon us, he had made himself very agreeable to us two girls; and we had surmised that he was a young professional man suffering from over-work, who had come down to recruit his health. But we are often unwise in our judgment from the past few days manifested a very remarkable power of clairvoyance or second sight, or whatever else you like to call it, which had created a great sensation among us.

On the previous day, for instance, my uncle had met a gentleman at the station and had brought him home to dinner. We said him walking slowly up the garden steps in conversation, and Lily had exclaimed:

"Who on earth is this?"

Mr. Gregory looked and said?

"His name is Smith, and he is returning to town by the midnight train."

"Never saw him in my life before," was the answer.

Sure enough his name proved to be Smith, and he returned to town that night after a long private interview with my uncle; nor had he, told us, in answer to our inquiries, ever seen or heard of Mr. Gregory before.

On Saturday morning, also, the Rev. Mr. Briggs, who had been the best meditator on his Sunday text, had encountered Mr. Gregory, who volunteered information as to the said text, with chapter and verse all correct, to the entire satisfaction of the reverend gentleman.

On another occasion, when our elderly friend had told us that she had been out making a small purchase, Mr. Gregory informed us all soon that a bottle of hairwash constituted the purchase in question. This communication was very unfortunately overheard. It was completely lost, and he continued to stare at the couple before him; and when at last they strolled off in different directions, he said that he must apologize for having an engagement, and he left us abruptly. "A strange young man, indeed!" we thought, and we were often unwise in our judgment from the past few days manifested a very remarkable power of clairvoyance or second sight, or whatever else you like to call it, which had created a great sensation among us.

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We said, "No."

"But they seem to know you," he said.

We explained how they had favored us with their opinion. The point of our appointment, he could not be induced to go on with his reading, but he continued to stare at the couple before him; and when at last they strolled off in different directions, he said that he must apologize for having an engagement, and he left us abruptly. "A strange young man, indeed!" we thought, and we were often unwise in our judgment from the past few days manifested a very remarkable power of clairvoyance or second sight, or whatever else you like to call it, which had created a great sensation among us.

"I am about to know you," he said.

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"The cause of your return is, I believe, connected with the forgery of a certain check in your name."

"Sir, how can you possibly know that?"

"That check was brought to you for your inspection three days ago by one of the clerks from the bank, a Mr. Smith, and it is now in your possession."

"Never saw him in my life before," was the answer.

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"What has he got there?" said one.

"All the works of Josephus for ten-pence," replied Mr. Gregory.

Immediately afterward Mr. Briggs entered the room and said to his son:

"What do you think I have just bought?" to which the general response was:

"All the works of Josephus for ten-pence."

It turned out that he had just purchased it out from a second-hand book-stall.

When questioned about his mysterious powers, Mr. Gregory always became very serious, and gave no information

but changed the subject as soon as possible.

In consequence of all this, interest, curiosity, uneasiness, and even alarm, were in varying degrees excited in the breasts of the several members of our company. Most of the ladies declared that it was a very singular occurrence, and that there was something serious to happen. Their expectations were not altogether unfilled.

There were two new arrivals on the day on which our story opens. Our company had hitherto been pleasant and select, but the lady and gentleman who were named Mr. and Mrs. Grice, had recently come to this. Showily dressed, and loud in their conversation, they made great efforts to mix with us in our company, and for some inscrutable reason seemed to make special endeavor to become intimate with our own party; Mr. Grice attacking my uncle, and his wife devoting herself to us.

Mr. Grice at pains to conceal his aversion to their ill-mannered and offensive intrusion, but they seemed determined to accept no rebuff. Lily said that we had met here the most pleasant and the most unpleasant persons whom we had ever met on our travels. The former class, I presume, mainly embraced Mr. Gregory.

Ever since Mr. Grice's visit on the previous day, my uncle had seemed to be unusually worried and anxious. Something had happened at the office, which caused him very great uneasiness, and he kept a constant watch for the post. Lily and I were troubled about it, but were hardly prepared for what it was. Upon receiving a letter from town, that we must pack up at once and return by the first morning train.

We had no objection to escape from the Grices, but, in spite of Mr. Gregory's ill-repute for his mysterious arts, we were very sorry to leave him, to say nothing of the alarm and unexpected trouble.

The Grices were sitting next to us when my uncle made this announcement, and I saw a peculiar look of significance pass between them. Mr. Gregory was sitting at the other end of the room, and we were all very sorry to leave him, to say nothing of the alarm and unexpected trouble.

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