

257
611.

THE
GREY LADYE

BY HERSELF.

PRICE 30 CENTS.



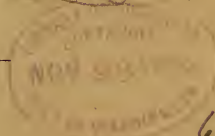
SALEM, OHIO :
CHAS. M. DAY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
236 ELLSWORTH STREET.

THE GREY LADYE.

BY
HERSELF.

28
5645

Miss Elizabeth
H. Mace



61732²
B-7

1896.
PRESS OF CHAS. M. DAY,
SALEM, OHIO.

BF 1301
M 132

COPYRIGHTED 1896

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH H. MACE, *an*

8 Lienan Place,

JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS, N. J.

All rights reserved.

I dedicate this story to the great middle class, the intelligent toilers of the land, the children of Israel.

THE GREY LADY.

Copies of this book will be sent by mail, postpaid, upon receipt of price, 30 cents each. Address

MRS. ELIZABETH H. MACE,

8 Lienan Place,

Jersey City Heights, N. J.

The Grey Ladye.

CHAPTER I.

INVISIBLE to the eyes of mortals, yet an active member of the family who were my nearest kin during my mortal life; in one sense dead, but only so as to the perishable body I once wore, I am as much alive and leading just as useful a life as those still clothed in the garb of mortality. Many times my heart has ached over the sufferings which mortals are compelled to endure, unknown and unsuspected by the outer world. I go into many homes, but find little real happiness. I enter the habitations of the poor and see grim want staring me in the face. This is a frequent cause of people losing various articles. Many are drawn to commit crime through lack of the actual necessities of life. I visit the abodes of the rich, and although society is supposed by the majority to be the acme of perfect happiness, it is but seldom that it can be found there. There are sore hearts beating under silks and laces, and under evening suits, which are carefully hidden from the gaze of the outside world. Men and women alike, oftentimes carry aching hearts and would rather die of grief than permit their sufferings to become known. Jealousy is a frequent cause of this unhappy state of affairs, and it affects the high and low, rich and poor alike. It brings about many a wretched mar-

riage. Men and women, smarting under its pangs, rush into unions with others than those whom they have learned to love. Seldom indeed does happiness follow, although in some cases I have seen contentment take its place and peace reign in the household. More frequently the reverse is the result, and a life with an unloved partner brings neither happiness nor even content. The danger lies in the possibility of loving another; and such, in many instances, proves to be the case. Sad eyes and sorrowful hearts meet me in almost every home and in all the walks of life. I travel whithersoever I will and there is no one to object or say me nay. In my grey garb of peace and silence I wander among the abodes of all classes, and where do you think I find the most suffering and patient endurance of sorrow, privation and struggle in order to keep the wolf from the door and retain a respectable position among friends and associates?

There is a class of people who are the real bone and sinew of civilization. Were it not for these people of the working or middle class society would find no footing. They are the prop and stay of all God's earth. They invent, they manufacture, they struggle and toil. Some few reach a position where, after a few years, they may rest from their labors with a well earned competence; but many go down in the struggle, with no helping hand to save. They have fought through the fierce fight—again and again they have been beaten down. It sometimes seems to these that the powers of hades are leagued against their most earnest efforts, and in many cases they die from their very struggles to maintain life.

In many respects human beings are not unlike the animals. I have seen the stronger endeavor to down the weaker, figuratively, just as do certain beasts. It is a trait which man has inherited from the lower orders of life out of

which he has evolved, and until it be finally outgrown we shall be constantly reminded of our kinship to the carnivorous occupants of the forest and the jungle.

In silence I watch the efforts of humanity to rise, and were it known to the general mass of the people, as it is to some few, that there is a way by which to obviate the difficulty and ascend to better conditions as mortals are intended to do, much of this suffering might be avoided.

There is a kingdom, unknown to and unsuspected by the people of the present day, where right and justice prevail, and help is promised to those who are fainting and falling by the wayside. This upper air kingdom keeps watch and supervision over the affairs of mortals. It interferes only when necessity requires its aid, and when such is the case, all lower orders stand aside and bow to this mighty power. But this assistance is not rendered unless a good and useful life has earned for a reward this mighty influence in its favor.

Mortal man is but an atom in the sight of this heavenly throng—only a higher order of animal—and until animal propensities have been outgrown and overcome this help, to any great extent, is never furnished. Otherwise it would be time wasted to apply for it from the upper and unseen forces which rule this earth.

Sadly, at times, have I watched the unequal struggle of a frail woman battling against the tide of adversity for those whom she was endeavoring to uplift and care for, spiritually and materially. The wants of mortals and their needs are two separate and distinct classes. They want much; they need little. When actual necessity requires, the needs may be supplied by application to the higher and invisible kingdom. "Ask and ye shall receive," is a promise kept to the uttermost when people understand and are

worthy of assistance. Those who have earned the right to the help which may be furnished from on high, have also the privilege of requesting help for others who are deserving and in need of it. God's messengers may be found among mortals as well as among the invisibles. They are all His children, though some may have forfeited their birthrights.

Truly among invisible things more wonders are to be found than among those open to mortal ken. I mingle silently with those assembled at the birth or death bed of one entering or quitting earth life. I am to be found at the weddings of all kinds of people. I see into their hearts and discover the secret motives of their marriages, and frequently find true love to have the least important share in the transaction. Often the union is contracted through desire for wealth or position, or to escape from an unhappy home and a life amid surroundings where love is unknown. Sometimes, and not unfrequently, I find among young girls a wish to flee from the monotony of days spent in toil. In such cases many multiply their hardships and miseries. Some men marry to be petted and made much of, and women do the same. The desire to be loved and cared for by one of the opposite sex is human to the last degree, and though the desire may be kept in abeyance or smothered until nothing remains that is apparent upon the surface, yet deep in every human heart I find the germ of love and its sacred longing to be loved for its own sake. Love I find in every human being. No matter how low they may have fallen, no matter how high they may have risen, it is the divine spark that may be kindled into an everlasting flame. It may be buried under the debris of a wrecked and ruined life, but it can and will be resuscitated, if not in this state of existence then in another. Sometime and somewhere it will surely find and take unto itself its own. Oh, the ach-

ing hearts of earth's children! Angels look down and weep over their sorrows, which may be mitigated, as in times past, by a saviour. Some are born into the world for the purpose of helping and uplifting their fellow beings, and when such are found among the multitude all honor should be extended them instead of their being permitted, as they usually are, to suffer and die in the struggle for bare existence. See to it, men and women of the nineteenth century, that not one of these suffering children of God be permitted to go down in life's battle. Angels dwell among you in mortal form, but your eyes have grown dim and your ears dull of hearing so that you cannot hear the Father call to you to give your succor before it be too late. Each day some among you may entertain an angel unawares. Let no opportunity of doing good to these people of the middle class pass you by, for among them will be found God's messengers. Though clad in the garb of the flesh, they are His angels, sent here to suffer and to die, if need be, for the betterment of humanity. You who have more of this world's goods than you can ever need for the gratification of your most extravagant desires, seek out these people, who may always be found for the seeking, and extend a helping hand to some of these messengers from on high. From time immemorial angels have quitted their celestial homes and willingly undertaken the Father's work. This is the reason that, among the class mentioned, may be found saint-like and seraphic people. They bear life's burdens, they endure the ills which are visited upon them without complaint or murmur. At last, folding their pale hands upon their tired, worn out breasts, which have sheltered many an unfortunate, they die and make no sign. Sisters of the period, I, the Grey Ladye, who am a frequent visitor at your homes, call upon you to aid those who are too sensitive to make their dire necessities

known even to the few with whom they are associated. Too many of these angels in human form are struck down in the unequal combat. Too many are thus lost to a life of usefulness for others. Unselfish to the last degree, giving when their own needs should be supplied, parting with the last drop of blood in their frail bodies that others may be vitalized and warmed and nourished, this which you may term, if you will, unselfishness to a fault, is what these ministers and saviours are known to have done. The Grey Ladye visits many homes and finds this trait only among the saviours of the century. Each cycle or period has these martyrs, always doing their work unknown and unappreciated. Some of them, through force of circumstances, have come to the front and have been recognized as their worth became known. Others whose labors will one day be understood and appreciated are yet unrecognized. Brothers and sisters, see to it that not one of these be permitted to struggle on without assistance. I, the Grey Ladye, who can see into the inmost sanctuary of every household, reiterate that no one may hope for happiness here or hereafter, unless they minister to the needs of their fellow beings as God intended they should. If you would invite the supervision of the upper kingdom, if you would have your loved ones as guardian angels during your sojourn upon earth, then do unto others as you would that they should do unto you.

CHAPTER II.

I, the Grey Ladye, make my way into the privacy of your dwellings. I look into your cupboards, and in many instances find a scanty store. I peer into a closet containing the wardrobe of a family, and in some cases find one decent suit doing the work of two or three, used by each member

of the family when going abroad at the call of duty or to church, or on festive occasions—if these people ever indulge in such. Frequently only one extra suit of underlinen will be found among an entire family of females who manage to keep themselves in a cleanly condition. I find patching and darning to be the rule among a certain class, who in this way keep up a respectable appearance; living, as it were, from hand to mouth. God's chosen people of every generation—the real children of Israel—are the toilers or the intelligent middle class. Each and all have their days, as each incarnation brings a change in circumstances and position to every child of earth. As the waters threaten to engulf them, as the enemy (poverty or some worse evil) pursues them, God makes a way for them to pass through dry shod and the foe is driven back. They view the promised land from afar. They struggle on and on, frequently fainting and falling by the wayside and are buried in the wilderness. Such life has proved to them, but their children for whom they have toiled and suffered may reach and occupy the promised land. Riches and perhaps an elevated position among men may be theirs. These children of Israel have often, during this life, fearful struggles; but the reward comes as a certain result of labor well performed. In the after life they view with satisfaction those for whom they have toiled, enjoying the well earned fruits of their labor. Selfishness has no place in the hearts or minds of God's chosen people. They are well content and find their happiness in working for others, or they would not be God's chosen ones. Here they sow the seed, and in the great hereafter they reap that which they have sown, and their works do follow them.

Were it not for this class animality would rule throughout the land. Selfishness and greed are uppermost traits on

the animal plane. Were it not for this, much suffering among human beings might be obviated. Silently I enter the homes of earth's children and discover many of life's most secret phases. Were people aware of the fact that at all times they are under the surveillance of those invisible to mortal sight, I venture to say that the lives of many of them would be different. They are never alone. Bolts and bars cannot keep out these invisible intruders into their households. We go about endeavoring to alleviate some of the sorrow and misery everywhere to be found among the children of earth. Have they a goodly portion of this earth's treasures? Then the heart aches, perhaps, because of the unkindness of those most dear to them; or perchance death has robbed the household of some cherished idol; or a rival has won the love which was prized above all things. May be, if none of these calamities have happened, ill health, or the precarious condition of a loved one, hovering perhaps on the brink of the grave, brings to the heart sorrow and despair. In some homes I find a beloved son or daughter, or some other member of the family, slowly fading away, and relatives watching day by day in hopeless agony, as the hand of the destroyer clasps the loved one closer and closer, until at last he bears the object of their fond affection away from their midst, leaving them desolate to mourn the untimely departure of their brightest blossom. In many cases the lack of means to care for the fading flower is the cause of this. *Materia medica* has at this day many remedies which may be employed by those whose means permit; but others, to whom these fading flowers are just as dear, have not the means to employ the remedies which might save and keep the loved one here to be a comfort to the home.

Day by day, with bleeding hearts and anxious, tear

dimmed eyes, they watch the slow progress of the wasting disease which carries off the brightest and fairest of earth's children. Surely this should not be while God's sun shines upon all and the treasures of the earth yet unexplored and undiscovered lie hidden from mortal ken. There are people of the present day who can be taught how to find these treasures, which, when found, would be a source of benefit to suffering humanity. A remedy for every disease which flesh is heir to may be found for the seeking, and those who find will be the saviours of their day and generation.

CHAPTER III.

I, the Grey Ladye, visit the abodes of vice and crime, trying to instill into the hearts of even the most depraved some of God's love and charity. Sometimes I have the satisfaction of finding that the seed has fallen upon good and fertile soil. Knowing that there is a spark of good in every human breast, it is my province to search it out, and if possible to kindle the spark into a flame whose light may be distinguished by others groping in darkness. In my wandering I find much good even among those considered the vilest and most degraded. No individual upon God's fair earth is completely and entirely bad. This I find to be the state of affairs. A germ of good lies hidden from the light of day and from the gaze of mortals, in every human breast. The task is to search it out, finding by patient endeavor the tenderest spot in the calloused hearts of the lower orders of humanity. In every human being is the germ of love, the desire to love and to be loved by some one or something. It comes from God as the birthright of every soul. Not the fierce passion of a day or an hour, not that which attracts the animal nature in every form of life, but the God-given and divine spark of true and abiding love inherent in the

hearts of all men and women. I, the Grey Ladye, have seen the tears freely flowing from the eyes of strong men, hardened criminals in the estimation of the world, when the thought of home and family has come to the mind, while in seclusion they have been paying the penalty for some deed of outrage against the laws of the land. Crimes are committed when the animal nature is in the ascendancy. They are the result of ignorance rather than of constitutional depravity. In some the brain is in a defective condition. Many of the lower orders are incited to evil acts through the influence of liquor, which inflames the passions until the brute is uppermost for the time and the person is not responsible for his actions; but when brought face to face with the result of his mad deed, he invariably quails within himself as the full import of his crime becomes clear to his sober senses and reasoning mind. The most hardened criminal has his hours of retrospection, when his follies and vices become, as it were, a hideous nightmare arising from his memories of the past. Do you wonder that people are sometimes declared to be insane when a murderous deed has been committed by them in the heat and fury of passion? For the time they are so; and these people, frequently of the lower order, should not be executed, as they are not responsible for crimes committed while brute instinct or passion prevails. The tendency of the wild animal to slaughter is inherited by earth's children, and must be outgrown ere God's kingdom can come to reign over this world. This can only be accomplished through many incarnations. As we progress we outgrow all animal propensities, and upon release from the mortal body find a brighter home in the beyond.

Sisters and brothers of the higher orders of mortal existence, those whom God has endowed with every gift both

of mind and body, do not slumber while' misery hides from the light of day, eating its heart out because of the apparent injustice of natural laws. There is nothing unjust in the economy of nature. All will have, or have had, their opportunities to rise. All will be rewarded according to their merits. So to those who are groping in darkness give of your oil, for their lamps are gone out. To help one another is one of the lessons taught by Jesus. Were this rule followed poverty would soon lose its sting, for with every distress would come the certainty of a helping hand being stretched out by some more fortunate brother or sister.

At the twilight hour I, the Grey Ladye, seek the home of my loved ones to guard them through the night. While the bodies of my dear mortal companions rest in silent slumber I teach them these truths, preparing them to lead useful lives both here and hereafter.

And now I will give you a sketch of my own history.

CHAPTER IV.

I was the only and beloved daughter of well to do parents who gave me an education fitting me for any position in society. I was clothed in the finest raiment and fared sumptuously every day. I was the companion and friend of my dear mother, whose appearance was more like that of a sister, so youthful did she seem. I at times was as an elder sister to that mother and acted as her adviser, she caring for nothing in the world so much as for her daughter. For my sake she sought to accumulate wealth. For me she desired fame and fortune, but her desires were not to be gratified. At the beginning of a bright career I was cut down as a flower before the gale. My home was left desolate, my parents heart broken, and my mother inconsolable in her bitter grief, upon the verge of insanity for

many months, until God mercifully permitted my return, that I might be the means of saving to the world one of His chosen instructors to the race. My mother was a medium from childhood. Such are born, not made, and are here for a special purpose to do much-needed work upon the earth. There are many such, especially among the middle class before mentioned. From her earliest years my mother had been remarked as peculiar, differing from the other members of the family, and the term "black sheep" had frequently been applied to the sensitive girl who was born to suffer and, if need be, die for the benefit and advancement of family, friend and foe; to be, as it were, the scapegoat for the sins, follies and shortcomings of others. Such are to be found in every tribe. People are in tribes now, just as they were in former generations; and in every tribe belonging to the human family, one of these martyrs may be found. Sometimes, by force of circumstances, two will be found in one tribe. When such is the case it is for power among the nations. Some live and die unrecognized as mediums, but their peculiarities are always subjects of remark among their relatives and friends. Were they recognized, as all such will be in the near future, as being different from others for a great and worthy purpose, were their lives shielded and guarded from life's storms and adversities, much good would result. They are mascots, and when certain laws are understood they are able to bring prosperity to all with whom they are associated. Frequently they are in want themselves, due to the generosity inherent in every child sent here for special work among mortals. To whom much is given much will be required, and these mediums and mascots of the nineteenth century have great responsibility resting upon their shoulders. If all were to live in accordance with certain laws, the inner secrets of the earth—nature's

storehouse—would lie open to their gaze as the pages of a book, that he who runs may read. We run in the race, and many are defeated because worldly attractions or the indulgence of the appetites often occasion mediums to be influenced and finally overpowered by inferior intelligences who belong to the earth plane, instead of attracting those from above who are all powerful for good and beneficial results.

I have digressed from the thread of my story to mention these important facts connected with every sensitive upon earth. Now I will resume my relation of my mother's experiences. After my departure she, I am told, became as one dead to all in this life until my return, when she was impressed by me to seek the key to the mysteries of life and death. This gave her new life, and the constant longing to learn how to communicate with her loved daughter brought about the desired result. My mother's reason was saved and her life made useful to many besides those of her own family. This, though unknown to and unperceived by those most interested, has not been without its results, as her constant and unwavering faith in the power from above has done much for those who are yet unaware of the influence exerted in their behalf. Angels look down from their home on high and mark the beneficial results of labor well and faithfully performed, and of prayers and supplications offered morning, noon and night, for every member of the family and household, as well as for those farther removed.

My mother at this time was strongly impressed to seek a clairvoyant. This was a few months after my departure and was entirely unusual on her part. She thus learned something of a phase of life heretofore unfamiliar to her. From this she began to attend meetings and circles. Be-

coming thus interested in spiritual matters and in the literature appertaining thereto, she commenced to think of that other and fairer land where, she doubted not, her daughter had found a home. Thus the way was prepared for the future development of those high mediumistic powers which had till then lain dormant. From instruction gained from frequenting these spiritualist meetings and seances she formed the idea of trying, in her own home and with members of her own family, if communication might not be established between her daughter and herself, as well in her own house as in the houses of others; and though fearful results might have been the outcome, she met with partial success. There are two distinct phases of spiritualism, the dark and the light, and my mother was led an innocent victim, to the darker side. For a time all seemed to go well, and would probably have so continued; but the tide turns after a while, even if these practices are willingly continued. Almost imperceptibly every material blessing before enjoyed turned to dust and ashes. All worldly goods were in danger of being swept away. Misfortune followed misfortune, until kind friends from the invisible side of life interposed and rescued the family. Worldly goods are being restored, but it has required a mighty power to effect the transformation. Had my mother been wisely instructed as to the proper course to pursue in order to gain the companionship of the daughter, who was only too anxious to be by her side, all might have been different and much suffering saved the innocent victim. This may have been permitted as a lesson to be given to others. It is not for us to say or to question the workings of the higher powers who rule the earth.

Upon awaking from the lethargy which invariably succeeds the release of the spirit from the body, and which

with some lasts longer than with others, I began to look about me and to wonder where I was. I found myself in a strange place and among friends who had long since passed from earth. My first thought was to inquire for my mother. Then I was told that I had died and had departed with kind friends to a far off land. I immediately desired to return to my mother, but such was not to be for some time, as I needed instruction for the new life. I was not earth-bound, as is the case with many who pass from mortal life, except as to my love for my mother, which kept me from fully appreciating the new life. The thought of her in her sorrow and loneliness made me sad and long to return. I found the new life very similar to that which I had left, but upon the whole on a much higher and more advanced scale. I was in appearance more youthful than when in the mortal body. I was the same tall and slender girl, with golden brown hair and velvet brown eyes. I was clothed in a soft grey garment, free and flowing in graceful folds to my feet, and was as full of life as during my most palmy days. I felt no effects from the distressing illness which brought my short life to a close, but was told that experience belonged to my earth existence, and that I should only feel the effects of my last sickness upon approaching the earth atmosphere; and this I found to be true. I desired very much to see the dear ones who I knew were grieving for me, but was advised to wait awhile before venturing again to earth. So in patience I waited and at last was rewarded by being permitted to return, only, however, for a short visit. The journey was made during the silent hours, and when I saw my mother asleep, with sorrow over my untimely departure written upon every line of the dear face, I called aloud in my agonized efforts to make her conscious of my presence, *and my mother heard me.* I cannot express the joy which

filled my heart as I understood at once that death had no power to separate us. It had lost its sting. She started up with the exclamation: "I heard my pettie call me loudly and clearly!" and in the silent night she imitated the call, seeming to desire to impress upon her mind the tone of the loved voice unheard for so long a time. Soon after I attempted to show myself to my mother, and was partially successful. She recognized the face of her daughter. I continued my efforts, and she has seen my full form several times.

My mother has devoted her life to the purpose of establishing communication with the invisible world, hoping thereby to prepare herself, upon departure from the mortal body, to be a fit companion for the daughter who was lost but has been found.

As there are different grades of society upon earth, so it is in the higher life. As long as loved friends are upon earth, our desire is for their advancement, and we can no more forget them or leave them for any great length of time than can mortals leave their loved ones. Our griefs, upon separation by death, are just as real; but kind and wise guides care for and advise us as to the course to pursue in order to benefit all concerned. We thus bow to superior wisdom and find pleasure in being cared for and guided. Our home is far away from here, but duty calls and affection makes our task a source of contentment. We find many suffering souls who need our attention. We comfort the sick, and give release to the spirit struggling towards departure.

These offices devolve upon those whose home is in the second sphere, which is far above the earth atmosphere, and it is there that I, the Grey Ladye, have made for myself a home.

CHAPTER V.

In the far off country previously mentioned is a solid stone structure, resembling a castle of the time of Queen Elizabeth. It is surrounded by magnificent and well kept lawns and gardens, groves and orchards, where the most delicious fruit grows the year round. There flowers bloom and birds sing the livelong day. Fountains send their spray high in the air, while gold and silver fish bask in the sunlight. We enter the mansion and find the interior on a par with the exterior of this splendid home, which is known far and wide as the Wanderer's Rest. There are few unoccupied rooms in this peaceful abode, as many weary travelers seek its shelter. Silken hangings adorn the walls, while pictured faces and lovely representations of field and farm are everywhere to be seen. Soft couches and reclining chairs are plentifully distributed through the rooms, which invite restful repose after life's fevered battle upon earth. Bed-rooms and their necessary accompaniments are here unused and unneeded, as these people refresh and renew themselves by bathing in the fresh air and the softly falling dew, thereby restoring their appearance from day to day. They have no kitchens or cooking utensils, because nature's storehouse yields a plentiful supply of fruit, air and water. Unfermented wine is here frequently used as a beverage, being pure; but alcohol in any form is never heard of. Every innocent luxury may be found. Fine and beautiful clothing is the rule and not the exception. Different forms of amusement are indulged in, as innocent recreation is not prohibited. The grandest and most inspiring music greets the ear at times, when passing some building devoted to this heavenly art, and the most beautiful singing is an ordinary feature of life in this charming far-off country. Stores are to be found providing for the wants of the inhabitants.

Also schools, manufactories, and all that may be needed for the higher phase of existence.

When the mortal body is discarded for a spirit form, although of the same build, this form absorbs all that is necessary for its sustenance. After leaving the earth plane all desires of an earthly tendency are cast away, and like birds we soar aloft, until we find the plane for which we are fitted. We take advantage of the air currents, thus making our progress easy. While thus traveling through space we condense the form at will and journey in groups or couples. These journeys are generally made when night falls on the land, the atmosphere being better adapted for the purpose at that time. At the death of a mortal (unless the life has been such as to preclude the presence of the higher powers) invisible friends and guides at once carry away the freed spirit for necessary rest and recuperation; but they invariably desire to return as soon as in a fit condition, and are usually permitted to do so, as the natural grief of mortal friends, as well as their own feelings, causes them to be attracted to the earth.

I could tell of the ill effects of the despairing grief of mortals upon the departed, but will forbear, as it is one of nature's laws, and for a wounded and broken heart there is no earthly remedy. God can heal all wounds, and wipe away the tears from weeping eyes; and when people learn that death need not separate those truly and spiritually united, sorrow will give place to contentment and sweet peace will reign throughout the world.

I, the Grey Ladye, do not advocate the darker phase of spiritualism. It is not beneficial to the great mass of humanity who have life's battles to fight and life's duties to perform; but there is another phase of this much mooted question which is as different as the dawn of morning is to

the blackest midnight; a spiritualism that will bring peace to the aching and hungry heart; which will attract the higher forces to your aid, and bring to you the silent and invisible companionship of those whom you have loved in the past and have not lost.

Not dead, but gone before,
To a fairer world than this;
I've gone to make a home for you
In realms of endless bliss.

The frail and suffering body
I wore a few short years,
Was but an outer garment;
So, mother, dry your tears.

Could you but see the spirit,
So lovely, bright and fair,
That ever hovers near you
And gently strokes your hair,

In the still silence of the night
I sit beside your bed,
And whisper words of hope to you,
And soothe your aching head.

I'm never far away from you;
You know it, mother dear;
It gives me joy to hear you say,
My little girl is here.

So, mother darling, dry those tears;
I'm always at your side;
And never will I leave you,
Till we cross the silvery tide.

There is a brighter world than this,
Where death can never come;
We'll live in joy together,
In our sweet heavenly home.

A Ghost Story.

BY ONE OF THEM.

CHAPTER I.

OF all words in the English language, the word ghost seems the most uncanny, the most fearful. What is a ghost? As defined by Webster in his dictionary it is the soul of a departed person. But all ghosts are not such. Some are not possessed of souls, as will be explained later.

Why ghosts should be generally feared and disliked I do not understand, except upon the principle that we dislike that or those whom we fear. Our garment or body is more etherial than that of mortals, and therein only do we differ from the visible inhabitants of earth. Call me a ghost if you will, but I have the same feelings, the same likes and dislikes, the same desire for all that makes life worth living that I ever had; but the crude covering which was mine during my career as a mortal has gone to dust, and with the body which is now mine I soar aloft as inclination prompts. We do not like the word ghost, but there is much which transpires and which we are compelled to witness that we like still less, so we do not murmur. We see our places in hearts and homes usurped by others, true and

faithful affection being rare among mortals. There is much to cause sadness among the class called ghosts. Oh, mortal friends ! learn a lesson from a ghost who has been such for many years and who still lingers near those who were dearest while a resident among you. Do you imagine that so-called death changes the nature and feelings as well as the outer covering of the spirit ? It has but cast off its garment (worn out perhaps) to don a new and finer robe.

A husband loses by death a wife, but the loss is only, such to the external senses. She is continually attracted back to her home and to those whom she loved. Is the home broken up ? Then she follows the loved one to his new abode, flitting in and out, as inclination or duty prompts.

We of the invisible world have duties to perform for mortals, being better adapted for instructing and caring for our mortal friends than are those farther removed. We are able to come into closer contact with them. We receive certain instructions, which, when the time is ripe, we impart to mortals. We see our places filled by others, and in time learn to endure this with patience, knowing that true love is eternal, and that death cannot sever those who are spiritually united. In dreams we frequently make our presence felt and known, but to the waking senses we are rarely visible. Worldly cares and duties intervene, and it is difficult for us to penetrate the coarser or earthly side of a mortal. It is his spiritual side that we approach at night, thus instructing and guiding him. Ghosts love and desire to be remembered with affection, and repay such with the most tender and faithful love. We learn many things unknown to and unsuspected by mortals, and now I will tell you some of my experiences, which may be rightly termed a ghost story.

I was the youngest and best loved child of a widowed mother who had been left to struggle for a livelihood since I was a mere infant. There were two other children, only a few years older than myself. This helpless family was reared by the efforts of a frail mother, in a manner to do credit to her earnest work. True, we had a hard struggle at times to keep our heads above water, with only one pair of delicate hands to toil for our maintenance, but He who cares even for the sparrows sent friendly aid to the proud and high spirited mother, in a manner which did not detract from her independence and self respect. More ways than one were opened by which she was enabled to care for her young family. Friendly hands were often extended to keep them from want, without wounding the pride of the sensitive mother, whose love for her small and helpless family kept them together until some were able to assist in procuring them a respectable livelihood. All this happened many years ago, when immigration had not reached its present status, and many branches of employment were open to women, with better pay for less work than is the case at the present day. My family was blessed in having a Christian mother, whose conduct and watchful care kept her little ones from inferior associates whose example might have been detrimental. As time passed and they grew to manhood and womanhood employment was found for those who were capable, but I, the youngest, was unable to toil for my daily bread. Among mortals this is not uncommon, some being born for higher positions than seem open to them. Had my mother been aware of this fact, and that her children were capable of filling some of the higher positions in the land; and had this been instilled into their minds, and education afforded with this result in view, all would have been well, and much sorrow and suffering been

spared those most interested. Instead they were compelled to drudge, as it were, from morn till eve, with scant pay for their labor, in order to help the delicate mother, whose health had been undermined by constant and uncongenial labor.

One after the other married and left the home until I only remained, a companion to my mother, who clung to me the more. I assisted, as best I could, in making the home comfortable, until I also found a partner. I still resided at my mother's house, but things were changed. I had made a mistake in my choice, as many others have done. Of several suitors I had chosen the one least likely to make a person constituted as I was happy. He would have been a loving and tender mate to a congenial partner, but we were utterly unsuited to each other, and too late discovered our error. Such mistakes occur in this crude world, but are rectified in the great beyond, whither all are journeying. A few years only elapsed when I was mercifully called home. Unknown as to my real self by most of those among whom I dwelt during my earthly life, and unappreciated by the one whom I had chosen as a companion, I gladly awakened to another and richer life upon the other side. Here I found kind and appreciative friends, who willingly undertook my education and cared for me as a little child, while the necessity lasted.

Dear and faithful friends, my heart throbs while I write of your kind offices to one so ignorant and forlorn. My mother was inconsolable at my loss. Her heart broke when I was taken, if ever mortal heart could break, but time heals all wounds, and after years of sorrow she found a kind partner who was sent to her in her loneliness.

I have been a constant inmate of my sister's home for many years, and have appreciated and been permitted to

share in the instruction sent to her from on high for a good and wise purpose. In visions and dreams has this faithful sister frequently seen those who have departed to the far-off yet ever near-by shore. A thought can reach us wherever we may chance to be, and if necessity calls we obey the call at once, no matter where we are. We haunt, as it were, the abodes of our nearest and dearest, as while they remain upon earth our happiness is not complete. We aspire to higher conditions, but in our aspirations are included those most dear to us. This keeps us here prisoners, as it might be called, but only to the law of love and attraction. We visit other localities, but only as mortals pay visits of longer or shorter duration. Dear mortal friends, those who have lost, as you believe, those most dear to you, never think them lost, but only changing their garments for more ethereal robes. The cause of our being invisible to you rests with yourselves. We grow finer with the change, while you remain the same, with no higher aspirations, with no desires beyond the things of this life, which is only one step on the onward journey, one round of the ladder which all must climb in order to reach God's kingdom. Ghost I am, if such you choose to term me, but there are those to whom we are welcome guests. We carry to other climes much that is valuable and useful in a new and crude world. Journeying through space, in a manner of which mortals have no conception, we learn much which is unknown to the present occupants of this planet. A ghost can tell many secrets, one of which is that this part of the world is built over the ruins of an ancient city far surpassing that of the present day. That which has happened before is liable to happen again, at no very distant period. The predictions of the Bible are not for one generation, but in the fulness of time each cycle brings the change requisite for the progres-

sion of the human race. A ghost can tell of floods and earthquakes in the past which will be duplicated in the future by the fiat of the Almighty. The twentieth century brings many changes in its train, and those whose spiritual understandings have been opened will avoid many pitfalls. All may be thus favored, as God is no respecter of persons. All have the right to instruction as they become fitted for it, but to develop the understanding the appetite must be curbed. Starvation is not recommended, but certain articles of food are impediments to high spiritual instruction. Thus to sparingly partake of some, and entirely to eschew others is necessary for spiritual enlightenment. God speaks to mortals in many ways. He imparts instruction through those of lower degrees or advancement, and a spiritually enlightened person may take a lesson from every living object.

Apparitions have been heard of and seen by mortals from time immemorial. Such being the case there must be some truth in the stories told of such appearances. Frequently exaggerated no doubt they are, but these stories have their origin upon legitimate grounds. There are people whose inner or spiritual nature has been unfolded early in life, beings differing largely from the common order, who can see into the spirit world, which Longfellow truthfully says "floats like an atmosphere about this world of sense." Many of these people have two distinctly separate sides to their characters. They are dominated at times by the higher nature, when a higher world becomes open to them as the pages of a book. At other times they are governed by a lower self or nature which temporarily shuts out these visions and leads them into wrong doing. This is a frequent cause of men and women going astray, or falling into evil ways. Were these people to live entirely in the

spiritual, life here would be of short duration with them, but it is considered essential for the welfare of others that such should not be the case. The body worn as a shelter or covering for the spirit must be preserved in order to help forward the progression of the race. God speaks to His people in this manner through inspired writers and lecturers, and has done so since the world began. There are many such who, fearing ridicule, keep silent regarding these manifestations. The lower or more ignorant class would not benefit by this knowledge, and as that which is called spiritualism has been brought into disrepute by a misguided few, others who claim to be such must take the consequences. The innocent suffer with the guilty, as is ever the case among mortals.

The Bible tells of appearances which must have belonged to the unseen world. It speaks of angels appearing to men, of the voice of God being heard guiding and directing certain individuals. Why may not such be the privilege of mortals at the present day, provided that their lives are in accordance with divine law? To keep the commandments day by day would bring about a new era for man. Ghosts, so called, may be seen at times by some, but they cannot be made to order. Certain conditions favorable to such appearances must prevail. The atmosphere is filled with shades or the cast-off garments of those who were once mortals. All classes of earth's inhabitants shed their coverings at certain seasons. As the bird sheds his plumage and the animal his coat, as the inhabitants of the watery element shed their outer coverings, so does mortal man as well as the higher or spirit man shed his garment from time to time, as the season for such change arrives. This necessitates a corresponding change in the life and surroundings of the higher animal man, and also in the spirit world among the

invisible population. Among mortals there is either progression or deterioration. It is an unchanging law of nature that if the aspirations are high there is progress both materially and spiritually. If of an opposite character, they go to the ground from whence they came. There are periods in the lives of mortals when their own wills either make or mar them.

The shades or forms frequently seen by those who have clairvoyant sight are oft times these cast off garments previously mentioned, held together for a time by the law of attraction. They at last dissolve into the atmosphere. They are soulless and differ from a real spirit, who is a living soul, capable of instructing and guiding mortals. In the aura of every human being are pictured representations of thoughts and actions. Like the snail that carries his house, all his belongings upon his back, mortals carry with them pictures of all their thoughts and actions, and he who runs may read. These can be discerned by those who have clairvoyant sight, and also by the residents of the invisible world. Every thought and action is exposed to view. Were people upon earth generally aware of this, how different would be the lives of many. In the world invisible to mortal sight symbols are, to a great extent, used instead of talking, or thought transference is made use of instead of speech. These modes of conveying information are understood by the inhabitants of that world, and are readily learned.

Now I desire to speak of a much maligned class of people, those who profess to be materializing mediums. Before doing so I, as a ghost, with a mortal as the medium of communicating my thoughts to the world, desire to say that the writer is a skeptic upon this subject; that notwithstanding various demonstrations tending to confirm a belief, she

is a firm disbeliever in such results being possible. With her seeing is not believing, as she has had proof sufficient to satisfy the most skeptical, yet doubts the evidence of her own experiences. I desire to say that it is possible, and is frequently done to convince people, that spirits can be materialized so as to become visible for a time. In the atmosphere may be found the spirit of every visible object upon earth. These may be brought together in a mass by those who understand. The life or vitality necessary for the form is supplied from that of the medium. In days of old these forms were frequently seen and conversed with. Search the Bible for proof of such demonstrations.

Were these manifestations productive of beneficial results to mankind those of the higher world would not object. But of what use is it to waste in such pursuits time and money which might be employed in a better manner, by being devoted to cultivation and education for higher life and work? We refer to those of the invisible world as well as to mortals, for their time is as valuable as is the time of those visible. I desire to say, while upon this subject, that in order to clothe thoughts in appropriate language one must be gifted with power from on high, and also have a suitable education. True, a person may be controlled as a medium, and be used by another to voice his ideas, but the inspired writer or lecturer is not controlled. He must have the facilities within himself.

“Drink waters out of thine own cistern and running waters out of thine own well.” Some of the experiences which have been mine since becoming a ghost would perhaps interest people, and I purpose giving a few of such for the benefit of those interested, and who will recognize the ghost by the narration thereof.

Some time ago, a brother being ill at the home of his

sister, she frequently remained up at night to attend to him. Upon several occasions he plainly saw my form and heard me speak. At times I gave the impression that I was his mother, who was hundreds of miles away, and I conveyed her thoughts and wishes to him during his illness. Frequently I sat by his bedside, endeavoring to quiet and soothe him, which I was capable of doing. At times I appeared covered with flowers, at others clad in grey. We can change our appearances at will, when we have been instructed by the higher powers who rule the earth and who care for ghosts and mortals alike. Sometimes I knock at my mother's door in her far off home, in the silent hours, personating whom I will. It makes no difference so long as the message is conveyed, which is done while the outer senses are locked in slumber, the spirit being ever wakeful after being once aroused from the lethargy which usually enchains the spirits of mortals until such awakening takes place. Thus we are made useful by the powers who rule, and thus are messages conveyed by ghosts or the spirits of those who were once your mortal friends and associates.

To a spiritually unfolded person we can make ourselves understood during the waking hours, when proper conditions prevail. The atmosphere must be undisturbed in order for even those to see us or to receive instructions such as we are capable of giving. The person must also be quiescent as to mind and body. Were people to understand the laws which govern such intercourse a mine of wealth would be open to them, as we of the ghost world are cognizant of many matters unknown to the people of the present day. We can tell of riches undiscovered by this generation, and which may remain so unless a medium be found who can receive certain instructions from the unseen world not usually vouchsafed to mortals. Such a person can also be in-

structed concerning the medicinal qualities of many plants which are now considered worthless, but which have in them power to restore suffering humanity to the enjoyment of life and health.

We of the ghost world are ever anxious for the good of our mortal friends. When they suffer we suffer with them, and when they rejoice we too are happy. In our world we plan many things which are afterwards perfected by mortals. We give the ideas, they carry them forward to completion. We see their wants and necessities, and it is our happiness to assist them in their efforts for advancement, both spiritually and materially. A good and useful life will bring to mortals crowds of invisibles of the same nature. So will the opposite have an opposite effect. Ghost or spirit life is a very busy life to those who have received the necessary instruction and education. Mortals are not capable of caring for themselves without aid from the unseen world, which is bestowed alike upon all, according to the ability they have developed for utilizing it. Their own efforts in time bring about the desired result, and they attend, as companions and helpers, those that uplift or drag down, just as their own lives dictate. As all are no doubt aware, night is the time when the inhabitants of the ghost world are most alive and awake. Could mortals behold them as they are at that time they would be surprised at the similarity to their own lives which is everywhere apparent. Ghosts flit to and fro noiselessly and earnestly intent upon their several missions and occupations, rarely lingering by the way as is the custom with those of the visible world. The atmosphere at night is in a more suitable condition for their purpose than during the din and turmoil of the day. The ghost world is a literal fact, as many people of advanced intelligence have discovered. But to dabble in hidden mysteries ignorantly,

without the requisite preparation and education, is dangerous.

In this invisible ghost world are many secret phases never yet unfolded to mortal ken. Much that has been attributed to the denizens thereof is a force entirely apart from those who once dwelt here as mortals, and which is harmless except as to its influence upon the thoughts. To live in accordance with God's laws is a sure safeguard against every inferior human being, mortal or spirit. But there is an element in nature which can work injury to the thoughtless trifler who calls to his aid those from the invisible kingdom. Ignorant of all law, ignorant as to feelings of humanity and kindness to each other, living as do the animals, yet endowed with more power than man, this element is at times invoked by mortals in their eager search after the unknown. With wise and good instruction this could be made available by the inhabitants of earth, as many of those most advanced in occult knowledge have discovered for themselves.

We of the invisible world live in your houses. When so disposed we dine at your tables and accompany you on your journeys, but we do not tip tables or make noises. These things are done by the element above mentioned. We can make ourselves felt by impressing your minds, and sometimes call to our aid the element spoken of; but we who are endowed with this power receive it from God as did Jesus in his miraculous work long ago. In order to do such work, though in lesser degree than did Jesus, the life must be one of purity, above all animal thoughts or desires, and one devoted to work for the benefit of all mankind, irrespective of nationality, creed or color. To be endowed with power from on high, each must be enabled to still the tempest within himself and say to the winds and waves raging there, "Peace, be still."

CHAPTER II.

We of the ghost world are your constant and ever faithful companions and helpers. Without this kind and watchful care man would play but an insignificant part upon life's stage. Hampered by the body of flesh he would be unfit to cope with the invisible forces which go to make up life upon this planet. Spiritually blind and deaf would he be because mortal man as such is not cognizant of the spirit world (which floats as does the atmosphere all around and about this visible or material plane) or of its inhabitants. This fact is well known to the advanced thinkers of this day and generation. In the dim and distant future a new people will arise from the ashes of the old, who will make of this earth a paradise as God intended. Man is driven from the garden of Eden only by his own folly and ignorance, and by the useless and indiscriminate indulgence of his lower senses. To keep God's laws is all that is required in order to attract all that is good and beautiful. The indulgence of appetite caused the fall of the first occupants of the globe. Although the story of the original sin of our first parents is allegorical, yet it teaches a truth, tending to show to the inhabitants of earth, of every race and generation, what it costs to disobey divine law. These Bible stories convey lessons which, if rightly understood (as they are by few of the present day) and applied to the daily lives of earth's children, the benefit to be derived therefrom would be incalculable.

The indiscriminate indulgence of appetite in every form causes the spiritual blindness and deafness of mortals. Were the appetites restrained, spiritual unfoldment would ensue as a natural result, and man would become the lord of the soil, with all the lower kingdoms subservient to him. Then there would be no poorer class, as God's earth yields

bountifully for the benefit of His children. It is only spiritual ignorance which causes the misery of a portion of mankind. The unfoldment of the spiritual senses would proclaim men to be gods, as the secrets of nature would be disclosed to them, and with the power thus acquired nothing would be impossible. Slaughtering for food is a relic of barbarism, and were the practise of murdering animals for this purpose abolished a new era would soon dawn and be felt and appreciated by every intelligent dweller upon this globe. No one would steal from his neighbor or fellow-man. No one would kill his brother man, as such practices having been abolished with regard to animals, man, the superior animal, would outgrow the tendency to deeds of violence. This will all come to pass in the future. Then liquor drinking, another form of indulgence in appetite, will also be banished from the earth. We need not pine for the far off home, as heaven would be upon this globe if mortals chose so to have it. It is only will power—the power of mind over matter—which is needed to accomplish this much wished for result, and the garden of Eden will be in your own houses and homes. We of the ghost world endeavor to help, as far as we are able, the prospects of those entrusted to our care by those who rule the earth; but it frequently becomes a hard task when many forces are pulling in opposite directions. It is like rowing against the tide; but we never despair, and with patience and perseverance find the reward, as those always do who endeavor to do right. When once the right current is reached success is assured. There are so many influences at work, invisible to mortal eye, which tend to drag down, that our constant efforts are required in order to uphold. We find much to do for mortals whom we care for, but our happiness lies in being useful to others.

In years to come, when mortals will be sufficiently advanced to appreciate the efforts made to enlighten them on hidden or spiritual matters; when such efforts are not met with ridicule by those who ought at least to respect, if they cannot believe or approve; when this comes to pass our labors will produce a salutary effect upon the children of earth. True, there are those who through deep and earnest thought and good useful lives have arrived at knowledge hidden from the masses, but it requires the earnest co-operation of the invisible world in order to enlighten those who have sufficient intelligence to receive instruction but are still groping in ignorance. The darkness of past ages still overshadows many of the best minds, and to these spiritual enlightenment must come. It is slowly being instilled into the intelligence of a certain class, whose teachings will, in time, benefit others. The field is large, the workers are few. In the time of Jesus people were ignorant, more so than those of the present day can realize, and his instructions were given to fit their undeveloped capacities. Babies require different food to that given to strong men. When the inhabitants of earth understand that the history of their world is plainly written in the surrounding atmosphere, and that the intelligent portion of the ghost fraternity are capable of reading this history, perhaps they will give more credence to the prophecies of the seers of their age and generation. We of the ghost world are capable of imparting to those who now populate this earth, information which can be obtained in no other way, and to those who are worthy this shall be done.

I will now give to the writer the necessary assistance to enable her to remember certain portions of her own history. As all who are sufficiently advanced are aware, this life is only one step on the onward journey. Many such lives

have we lived in the past, and many others are still in the future. Do you suppose that one puny existence, such as you are cognizant of, is sufficient to fit you for the life beyond in a higher phase of existence? Not by any means. We may compare our lives to a tree or a hardy plant—a rose bush for instance. We plant the tiny tree, and the first year it bears probably only a few leaves. The following year a few roses bloom. Each succeeding year the supply increases until hundreds may be gathered from the bush. It is the same with fruit trees and with all plant life. Why not with the more important life of the human being? We commence our human lives very low down in the scale. He who runs may read it in the different races, and in the different classes of each race. You may see gradual development in every race and class of people upon earth. If men would only understand, how much might be learned from every living object upon the face of the globe; and were they to live in a rational manner, knowledge would come to them as they became fitted for it. Far away in past ages the writer has certain recollections of different lives. Amidst her present surroundings glimpses of former splendor occasionally portray themselves, as also do memories of more lowly lives, which sometimes make their influence felt.

She has occupied the highest position in the land of a far country, and she has toiled in a menial capacity for her daily bread and the shelter of a roof over her head. Truth is stranger than fiction. Some day these lives will be recalled to memory in full, and written for the benefit of future generations. There are few upon earth at the present day whose memory has been thus awakened so that former lives, such as mortals least dream of, can be added to its storehouse.

When the time arrives for such revelations, but few

will be found who will give credence to the strange story. Ghosts endowed with power from on high are capable of arousing certain recollections in the brain of a mortal, provided the life of such a one is in accordance with certain laws as we have previously remarked. But when the brain is filled with worldly matters to the exclusion of higher thoughts, this cannot be done. A quiet and harmonious frame of mind is required, and this is found to be rare among the race. The continual struggle for place and position prevents spiritual unfoldment, and appetite does the rest. These are the great drawbacks to the rise and progress of humanity.

The ghost of a mortal who has recently departed from his house or temple of the physical body is capable of assisting those remaining in their fleshy tabernacles in several ways, more so in a material sense than those who have been long residents of the invisible world. As we outgrow our earth conditions we become more adapted for spiritual teachers than for giving assistance in material or business interests. But there are always others coming over to take our places while we rise higher in the scale, as those should always do who are attached to us and to whom we are attached. As we ascend we endeavor to draw our friends after us, spiritually as well as materially, and it rests with themselves as to our success in this endeavor. We aid to the best of our ability; we do not force or drive. We give the stimulus, the impression, which it is their office to take advantage of.

We ghosts who possess living souls do not haunt graveyards in the sense imputed to us by those unversed in the laws of spirit. We are the guardians, protectors, teachers and helpers of the race. But there are such to be seen at times, merely the shadow without the substance; the cast-

off garments of those who have ascended higher, which are attracted for a time to their old haunts or to the place where lies the decaying body. This law of attraction obtains to a great extent among those invisible to mortals, and only will power can counteract its effects. When this law is understood it may be made useful in many ways, but in order to do this a strong will and unwavering courage and determination are necessary to those visible and invisible alike, or dire results may follow.

The pernicious practice of placing dead bodies in the ground has a most disastrous effect upon those who are thus placed after becoming denizens of the invisible world. By many the ill results are experienced for a long time. When people become more spiritually enlightened the universal practice of cremation will naturally follow. Burying the dead in the earth pollutes neighboring streams as well as the atmosphere, which frequently carries the germs of disease from the grave to the habitations of the living, and thus death succeeds death with terrible rapidity. It has been frequently observed that when one member of a family dies another speedily follows. It may often be traced to this cause, especially when there has been much visiting and weeping over the grave. A strong constitution may withstand all such influences, but they must be baneful to those who are worn and weary with grief and care. Spiritual enlightenment must come at no distant day. The masses need wise and intelligent teachers who are in a position to declare ideas which will bring light to those now groping in the darkness of ignorance. The crusaders are once more in the field, preparing for the battle of might against right. It is in the atmosphere. They who are for us are greater than those who are against us. An invisible army is gathering from the four quarters of the globe to

protect and uplift the down-trodden children of Israel, and through their efforts enlighten the world. Many who read this prediction will not live to see this as mortals, but in their new and more exalted life will rejoice when it comes to pass. Paradise will be regained, and peace and plenty will reign throughout the land. Ghosts, so called, will then be welcomed in the hearts and homes of earth's people, for they will be known as they are. Not as ogres to be feared, or terrible shapes to be disliked and avoided or spoken of only in fearful whispers, but by the new-born generation accepted as kind and beneficent guardians or good fairies, able and willing to help in soothing the sorrow or rejoicing in the happiness of mankind. The twentieth century will bring all this in its train. A new order will be inaugurated and the Bible will be understood and appreciated at its true value. The teachings of Jesus have in a manner fallen upon a waste and barren soil. They are not understood as they should be. Were they so understood, his example followed, and his instructions applied to daily life and use, want and misery would be unknown, crime unheard of, the earth would again bloom as a Paradise, and all enjoy a garden of Eden.

A Ghost Story.

CONTINUED.

CHAPTER I.

I AM the so-called ghost of a man who dwelt here many years ago. Were I to give the name I was then known by there are those yet among mortals who would recognize it, though many have passed over to the great beyond and are still my companions in misery. Upon the earth invisibles find the Purgatory so often mentioned by Roman Catholics. It is a truth, as are many of their beliefs, of which I shall speak more fully hereafter. We pay the penalty of a misguided life both in the mortal and after we have passed out of it. Our follies bring their own punishments. God's laws must be obeyed, or the results of our disobedience will follow and sometimes cling to us for ages, until we have worked out our own salvation. Jesus died for the sins of the world, in one sense, but his death cannot help the man who does not help himself. In no way can mortals be helped, except by showing them the way to help themselves. Jesus came to show us the way. He, through the ignorance and superstition of the people of those days, was murdered, as have been many others, though in a different manner.

The baneful effects of a misspent life follow and affect a

ghost until he has lived down all earthly desires and conquered his lower or animal nature. The allegory of the first occupants of the land has its analogy in the life of every human being, as those who are spiritually enlightened have discovered. The story of Adam and Eve had its foundation in human life as it is and has been through many ages. Men toil and struggle for a livelihood because their appetites demand it. The animal life will not down, and thus man is kept in bondage to his lower self. He digs and delves to supply the demands of appetite in every form. He devours the flesh of beast and bird to appease his own carnivorous propensities. Until the desire for flesh food is overcome man will continue to be a carnivorous animal, and in the next life the results become manifest to his companions. We carry the prominent traits of our lives here depicted there upon the spirit form. This thought should restrain those who are addicted to practices which degrade humanity to the brute level. In my former existence I unfortunately contracted the liquor habit, which grew upon me until I was its slave. It caused sorrow and misery to my wife and family and lasting grief to myself. It was the means of separating me, early in life, from a beautiful and interesting family, whose future prospects were blighted by the vile habit indulged in by one who should have been their protector. Many years have elapsed since this occurred, but from my position on the hither side I still view with sorrow the results of a vile and degrading habit upon those who should have been cherished and protected by the husband and father who might have raised them to the highest position in society. I see them among uncongenial surroundings, in a sphere of life entirely unsuited to their natures and characters, toiling in uncongenial occupations, in almost menial capacities, having at times many hard

struggles to keep their heads above water. All this I am compelled to witness without the power to alleviate, as ghosts cannot do more than whisper wise counsel in the ears of those who understand, and instruct when opportunity offers. But our ministrations are oft times vain. Frequently our whispers fall upon dull ears. Mortals struggling for a livelihood cannot always be reached by invisible friends and instructors, as so many worldly cares intervene. I note the efforts to rise above my present conditions and surroundings without the power to extend the helping hand which is needed for success.

While mortals dwell upon earth the story of the Garden of Eden is re-told in every life and re-enacted by each generation. Every temptation is brought to bear upon those who endeavor to reach the promised land. This is done by those invisible to mortal sight, who are beneath us in the scale of progression. To penetrate the mysteries of the kingdom at once proclaims man a master, and the lower orders of animate life, feeling their rule ended, bow to him in submission. These facts are well understood by a certain few who have gained the knowledge through suffering and privation which not all are able to endure. The body, at times too frail, succumbs and the mortal is ushered into a new life, where his education continues. From far off climes come the instructors of the race. When one is of a sufficient degree of spirituality, such are attracted, as the laws of attraction hold good among mortals as among those who are invisible. When night falls over the land these good and wise men of the east journey hitherward, and with words of wisdom and mystic symbols unveil to the chosen this hidden law. They are only too glad to be enabled to do the Master's work. To those versed in the higher laws these journeys taken by the spirit of man while the body

lies quiescent in slumber are well understood. Only some of us travel in sleep. Many are too closely united to the body of flesh to be able to extricate themselves at will. This requires long practice and careful guidance, or the connecting link might be broken, and the spirit being unable to regain possession of the body, speedy death would follow. These journeys are a source of immense satisfaction to spirits permitted thus to visit other and fairer worlds, where they learn many things useful to them in the future. Spiritually minded persons sometimes find knowledge thus gained of great advantage to them while still resident on earth. It requires the memory to be awakened, which is occasionally done, when the scenes of these travels will be seen to lie like pictures in a book. One day the great book of life's toils and struggles, now safely hidden in memory's storehouse, will be opened for the inspection of every human being.

This is found to be necessary in the new life towards which we journey. Each new incarnation is added as we travel on. In years to come, when man will be less of an animal and more spiritualized, to awaken these memories will be a less difficult task and he will be enabled to progress more rapidly. The thus awakened memory will then become a mine of wealth, as the knowledge of past ages will be available to the intelligent portion of the rising generation.

I return to my story. In a fit of anger, under the vile influence of liquor, I embarked on a long and dangerous voyage, and when I came to my right mind was far out at sea. Too late I discovered the mistake that I had made and became aware of the rash and foolish deed that I had done. My family were almost helpless, the little ones not much more than infants, the youngest an infant indeed. The

health of the delicate mother had already been undermined by the care of her young children and the condition of nervous anxiety in which she had been constantly kept by the habit which had grown upon me until it became a case of periodical debauch. When sometimes I had come to my sober senses, with provisions and money gone and I unfitted to attend to business, I had resolved that such should never occur again; but when the time came round the returning appetite would prove stronger each time and I became again a disgusting inebriate for weeks at a time. The habit thus indulged became stronger with each indulgence. During the intervals between these debauches I was happy with my little family and would cheerfully labor in order to make them comfortable. From boyhood I had a fondness for the sea and when quite young began my life on shipboard, rapidly advancing until I became, through my own efforts, fit to command a ship. When I married I considered myself settled for life as a landsman, but a longing for the bright blue sea and its care-free and happy life frequently made itself felt. Still I would think of my family and put the thought aside, until that fatal day which separated me for ever from those whom I so dearly loved.

Oh, my lost happiness ! Oh, to recall my past life and to live in the bosom of my innocent family to shield them from all harm ! Gladly would I labor as a slave to uplift those I have wronged and to place them beyond the struggling and toilsome life which was theirs because of the disgraceful practice of a misguided husband and father. If my wretched life could atone for all that has happened through my fault, gladly would I endure a thousand deaths in order to repair the wrong which has made itself felt through the years which have elapsed. The trail of the serpent may be seen through many generations and there is

no family upon God's fair earth without this taint. Carefully hidden as it may be, we of the ghost world can discern where mortals are blind.

I remained for many months in a lowly condition, for I had shipped in my intoxicated state as a common sailor; but Providence provided a way out of it. I met with an accident, fortunate in one sense, but which left its results upon me for life. I was placed in a hospital in a strange country. For long and weary months I there abode, unable to help myself. For many more months I was unfitted for labor of any kind. At last, almost penniless, I was able to leave the shelter where I had time to think over my sad condition, of my wrecked and ruined life, and of the family perhaps brought to want through the intemperance of one who was well able in his sober moments to provide for them bountifully. Sometimes from chance acquaintances I gathered a few words of information concerning their condition, but these were rare occurrences, not reliable, and long after the events above related. After some years I learned from a relative of my wife, who was sworn to secrecy as to my whereabouts, that she was doing as well as could be expected, and longed for a word from her unfaithful partner. That she was in no danger from want; that she had been able to keep the family together, and that her natural business abilities had enabled her, though not without a hard struggle, to provide them with comforts and education. So I waited in silence to accumulate riches, which I desired for the family whom I had abandoned. I formed attachments, but never by marriage with another separated myself from the wife of my youth. It was always my intention to return to her and with the fortune which I should have acquired place her and my children where I felt that they had a right to be. Thus I waited for long years, but as fast as I accumu-

lated, something always seemed to interfere against my earnest efforts to gain a sufficient sum of money to return home. Fate seemed against my going back as I desired. After many years I hungered for a sight of my family, and though with a slender allowance, scarce sufficient for my needs, I started on my homeward journey, working my way in order to husband my resources. I arrived in my native land a miserable wreck of the young and handsome man who had departed so long ago. I was old in years and older in appearance, with a halting gait, as the accident referred to had left its mark, and I determined if I found my family not to make myself known. There are those since passed to the beyond who saw and recognized their former friend and companion, but being requested to keep silence they promised, and the promise was kept.

The City Directory is a wonderful help to strangers as well as to residents who may desire to find friends, so of this I availed myself each time the necessity occurred. One can go as a tramp, beggar or peddler to a door, and if persistent will find those whom he seeks. These were the methods employed by myself to see and have a few words with those to whom I was still attached. I conversed with the different members of my family upon many occasions, but the desire to make myself known did not obtrude itself, as no good to either could accrue from it. I was too proud to become a burden where I had failed in my duty as a provider. I remained for a few weeks near those who were my former relatives, and after assuring myself that I was incapable of aiding them in any way, and that to make myself known would only cause embarrassment to those most dear to me, I once more bade adieu to my native land, sailing away as I had come, unknown and uncared for. I had brought this upon myself and there was no one else to blame.

By indulgence of appetite I had cut myself off from family and friends and made myself an exile.

From that time I frequently embarked on shipboard, and in the course of a few years, during one of those voyages, life as a mortal came to an end. The ocean had been my home, and the ocean was my grave.

On the shore of an unknown sea,
Loved ones watch and wait;
With shadowy hands they beckon me,
As I near the heavenly gate.

Its waters are not deep and wide;
No storms above it roar;
'Tis a softly flowing silvery tide,
And beyond lies peace evermore.

When Death o'erspreads his sable pall,
And we are called to go from here,
We gladly may obey the call,
And hasten to that far off sphere.

We need not fear, for God is love;
He'll watch us on the way,
And guide us to the realms above,
Where beams an endless day.

A Bouquet From the Spirit World.

CHAPTER I.

FLOWERS OF THOUGHT FROM THE INVISIBLE SIDE OF LIFE.

FOR many years I have made my home in the spirit world, but attracted frequently to the earth plane and to those who were my nearest and dearest while a resident among them. We throw off our mortal covering as we lay aside a garment, but we do not cast away all our earthly desires and tendencies with our old and worn out clothing. Our great desire upon gaining the other side is to be fitted for becoming useful to those whom we have left, and also to comfort them in their sorrow over our departure. In order to do this we must progress beyond the earth plane, as otherwise our capacities would be very limited. An earth bound spirit, or spirit of the earth plane, has comparatively few opportunities of aiding mortals. Many are desirous of obtaining an education for themselves, as progression is the watchword among all intelligent spirits. They have many duties to perform, as indeed have all upon entering the new life. We must be clothed and protected until able to care for ourselves, and a new-born spirit is incapable of

thus providing for himself until instructed. In the invisible world may be found all that is used by mortals, but upon a higher plane. Spirits can make use of all these, but they are intangible to mortals, and that is why that which they use cannot be used by us. The moving and lifting of articles of furniture and also all noises are produced by another force, entirely different from the ghosts of whom we are writing. To explain this will be the task of another, one who is better able than myself to expatiate upon this subject.

In passing suddenly from the body, almost in full health, I found myself quite unprepared for the great change. Having been comparatively healthy during my life here, I had never given much thought to the next life. Enjoying my existence here, as do many others, had the choice been given me I would have remained perhaps for many years longer. On the bright morning on which I received my summons the thought of death or transition was far from my mind. Though lingering in an unconscious condition for several hours, there were intervals of partial consciousness when I knew those about me. The dearest of all was a little child who I knew would sadly miss me. At times I regret having been removed, principally upon her account; but I have been the guardian of this little girl for many years, watching over and as far as possible caring for her. Several times the attempt has been made to place her in a position where the powers lying dormant within her might be cultivated, but each time unsuccessfully, certain forces intervening to prevent until the loss of those near and dear gave the desired opportunity. Mediums of a high order are born for this work, and to such will be intrusted the saving power for the good of all mankind. A pure and childlike love for all God's creatures is the certain passport to His kingdom.

When night draws her curtain round,
Friends once lost may then be found;
Though lost to sight, they're ever near,
To cheer the hearts of mortals here.
Do not believe us far away;
We share your homes from day to day,
And gather in your quiet home,
When the shades of evening come.

CHAPTER II.

As a resident of the spirit world for several years I desire to add to the bouquet a few flowers of thought from my own garden. I was the first born and dearly loved son of a mother who, during my short stay upon earth, made me her idol. In my boyhood, instead of seeking companions of my own age, I clung to my mother and cared more for her society than for any youthful pleasures. Older than the years which I had lived would warrant, I was quiet and studious. When the time arrived for me to leave home and enter the world of business, I was so averse to the thought of quitting my mother that the family left their country home and became residents of the city. Here I became attracted to the social side of life through family connections and friends, though my mother still continued to be the dearest object on earth to me. Among the visitors who frequented my home was a young girl, some few years my elder. She seemed at once attracted to me, and although receiving but slight encouragement, became almost my shadow, paying the most delicate and winsome compliments and always reserving for me a place at her side. Flattered by this preference, and being encouraged by my family as well as by her own, in the course of time I became attracted to her, and being often under her influence imagined that it was love which caused me to seek her society, instead of the

dawning passion which wrecked my life at last and left me a disappointed and sorrowful man. I found when I had made her my wife, which was what she sought to be, that there was no love upon either side. She was an ambitious woman, desiring to unite with a family whose circumstances were in advance of her own. My family were wealthy, while she was poor and not handsome. Soon after the marriage a child was born. This did not tend to increase our happiness. During the illness of the mother, disappointed and chagrined at the duplicity of the woman I had made my wife, I became the lover of the youthful maid who was employed to care for the household. She was the tempter, and I, unloved by my wife, fell an easy victim to her wiles and allurements. My wife became cognizant of the state of affairs and immediately sought the advice of a lawyer, who counselled separation and an application for divorce. It went by default, as I did not appear in defense, and she was a free woman with a young child who was really fatherless, as I never acknowledged the child, though feeling a tenderness for it because of association. In order to avoid the expense of providing for a family which did not belong to and had actually been forced upon me, a lucrative and honorable position abroad was procured for me. I remained until ill health caused me to resign my position and return to my home and the loved mother who was yearning for the companionship of the son so dear to her. Being wrecked on the homeward voyage did not improve my condition. I arrived a mere shadow of the stalwart man who had been absent less than two years. In the meantime my former wife had formed an attachment for another. Soon after my return she married. Thus my entire freedom was accomplished, much to the satisfaction of myself and family.

The child born shortly after the marriage passed away,

so no claim upon me could possibly be made. Not having fully recovered from the ill effects of my residence abroad, and weak from the hardships consequent upon my voyage home, I employed the time in recuperating my health and in amusement. Not having a family to provide for my wants were few, and these were generously supplied by the fond mother, who was only too happy in having her son again by her side. During my travels I had met many fair women who looked kindly upon me and who would gladly have shared their wealth with me, but the terrible mistake of my youth had made me shy of the sex and I cared for no woman but the dear mother. One memorable day a trifling affair called me to a neighboring city, and it was while returning home that a circumstance seemingly of no moment at the time changed the sour, morose man into another being.

“Two shall be born the whole wide world apart,
And speak in different tongues, and have no thought
Each of the other's being, and no heed;
And these, o'er unknown seas to unknown lands
Shall cross, escaping wreck, defying death,
And, all unconsciously, shape every act
And bend each wandering step to this one end
That one day, out of darkness, they shall meet
And read life's meaning in each other's eyes.”

I met an individual who was returning apparently from a visit to the same city where I had been passing a few hours. This person and I were the only occupants of the car which was wending its way to the ferry. By an irresistible impulse I turned and addressed a few words to the party, who was sitting a short distance from me. She (for the person was a woman) responded in a friendly and lady-like manner, and a conversation ensued which continued until the car arrived at the ferry, where we took the boat

for the city where both resided. I obtained permission to escort her to her home, promising myself that I would see more of one to whom I was so strongly attracted. Not on account of beauty alone, for I had found many women fairer than she; but a strange uncontrollable impulse caused me to desire to learn more of a woman who was more than attractive—magnetic, people call it. I was driven by a power beyond myself to write almost immediately to her, and for a few weeks was in a fair way of again becoming a happy man; but a severe attack of illness, which lasted several weeks, rendered me miserable both in body and mind. During my sickness her form and face were continually before me. As soon as my strength permitted I hastened to her side. Many happy hours were thus passed, and gladly would I have taken her to my heart as a dearly loved wife, but there was already a claimant upon the life of the only woman in the whole world whom I desired to make my own: I could have educated her and given her a position in society, in which she would have become an ornament and leader; but it was not to be. Had not death intervened the consequences might have been serious. She was wedded to a man who, though kind and good, was her inferior in every respect, and the love was only upon his side. She, although a good wife and attentive to the family and household, had not the love of a wife for the man to whom she was tied by the law of the land. But there are other lands where such a union may be dissolved, as God has nothing to do with such mistakes. It was a mistake made in the ignorance of youth. The children, to whom she was devotedly attached, were the great barriers to a separation, which idea often occurred to the lonely man who had found the love of his life only to learn that unless death intervened she could never in this world belong to him. Night and day this preyed

upon my mind until at times I was almost bereft of reason, and then I would hasten to her side and for a few happy hours forget my misery. This love was my life and it was returned as I desired. Whenever I found a few hours of leisure, as I was then in a lucrative position, I hastened to the beloved one, finding my only happiness in so doing. Ill health again forced me to resign my position, and with the hope of regaining health and vitality I resolved to take a short trip on board a vessel, in which being the only passenger I could rest and perhaps recover my strength, for life was again attractive to me. During the voyage my thoughts constantly turned to the woman who made my happiness. I resolved to return on the first opportunity and not complete the voyage as had been my intention, but I was again laid upon a bed of sickness, from which I never recovered, and died far from the mother who loved me, and from the object who had been my first and only love and who was bound to me by ties that even death could not sever.

During my lucid moments (for I became delirious) I was constantly thinking and talking to the captain of the ship of my loved one and pining for her presence. Far beyond the affection of a son for a dear mother was this great and entire love which filled my being to the exclusion of all other. When death came to end my suffering it was not to the home from which I had departed to which the freed spirit hastened, but to the home of my heart's idol. From that time to the present her home has also been the abode of my choice. By development and progression through the years which have elapsed since my departure from the mortal, I have gained the position of guide to the loved one who since my entrance into spirit life has ever been my charge. I have never deserted my post or changed in the

affection which has held me her willing prisoner for so many years. She holds me by a golden chain—the chain of true and perfect love; which knows no wavering or shadow of change and which will last through all eternity.

On the walls of memory painted,
In letters of silver and gold,
I find among pictured faces
One word. It is centuries old.
I find it where'er are assembled
The young as well as the old;
I hear it in cot as in palace;
'Tis whispered by warriors bold.
More precious than gold or silver;
More potent, this sacred gem,
Than the mystic lore of all ages;
More value than king's diadem.
This word of only four letters,
With its power of tongue and pen,
Is heard among every nation;
Is used by all classes of men.
Oh, Love, with thy silken fetters!
Oh, Love, with thy golden chain!
In every heart find a welcome,
A cure for all sorrow and pain.
The youth, the sage, the maiden,
The savage across the sea,
All go to make up the picture
In the halls of memory.

My Little Lady.

SHE was a chubby little girl about three years old at the time my story commences, the second child and only daughter of the household, so she reigned in her sweet and gentle way in the hearts of those who composed the family until removed by death to a higher life and home. Sad though sweet memories crowd my mind on this mid-summer day, memories of the sweet little girl who too soon, alas ! was gathered among other fair flowers to bloom in the garden of the Lord.

Dear little lady, my eyes fill with tears as I think of your sweet and winsome ways. Shall I never see your sweet face again? Is this life all except those vague shadows which seem not to speak, but are pictured upon memory's walls, only to be seen for a time, then to vanish as morning approaches? Oh, my lily, my sweet spring blossom ! I know it is well for thee, and for thine own sake would not recall thee; but my heart hungers and thirsts for the sunshine of thy bodily presence and cries that it will not be satisfied until called to share with thee thy home. Many suns have risen and set since God took thee from a world too bleak and cold for thy abode. Gone to a fairer

land, where spring blossoms may be gathered all the year round.

Dear little lady, with her peculiar ways and quaint phrases ! Could we only look into the future when we have our garden full of these blossoms, which are only loaned to us for a season ! But God knows best and perhaps mercifully veils from us the future, while He gathers these blossoms to grace another garden or household. In dreams and visions I sometimes behold my little lady as a sweet and innocent child, then again as a tall and graceful maiden, grave and wise, though always tender and sweet. To other mothers thus bereft I send out my thoughts in loving sympathy. These blossoms loaned for a season from God's garden are His messengers, bringing us glad tidings, though we are too worldly, too much engrossed with the cares of this world or the amusements of this life to heed the divine messengers. Were we to live in accordance with the higher laws, these angel visitants, sent to lead us home, would be understood and appreciated. Every household has one or more of these messengers. Some reach mature age, others are gathered home in early life. God's ways are inscrutable and not to be questioned, but we may find peace in the assurance that it is for a wise purpose that these flowers are taken from our garden to bloom above. My little lady was wise beyond others of her age. It was frequently remarked that she would not live long, but she did arrive at the age of womanhood. Throughout her whole baby life she was unselfish, kind and generous. She was also gifted in a very remarkable manner. No task was too difficult for her to perform, no lesson beyond her capacity for committing to memory. Music was a passion with her, and her sweet singing voice was like that of an angel. Dear little lady, with your sweet, soft contralto ! I can almost

hear the lovely voice as I write. My little lady liked dolls and books, and to play as did other girls of her age, but as she grew older developed a fondness for recitation, sometimes in German dialect, and was in great demand for the purpose at different gatherings, where she was duly appreciated and applauded. Shall I describe her as a child? A round face, with soft, straight, light hair, eyebrows brown, large dark eyes with dark brown lashes, a plump form, and sprightly as a kitten. She was the idol of two grandmothers, one of whom passed away at the time my story commences. She loved and was beloved by her associates. She was tender and kind to animals and the helpless, and took pleasure in caring for them when permitted to do so. Being a proficient performer upon the piano, instruction in singing was added to this accomplishment and her lovely voice found suitable expression. She desired to be educated for a public life and received instruction with that object in view. When graduated from the dramatic school a position was found for her with a traveling company, and with an aching heart I saw her depart for a tour through the country. In my anxiety for her safety and welfare I placed her in charge of every member of the company, all of whom promised to care for her. God cared for her, though I neglected to ask Him, and He brought her home to me innocent and pure, though in failing health. The illness was not due to her trip, as she had, when about sixteen years of age, contracted scarlet fever in some manner unknown to herself or family, which left her in delicate health. Her throat was the cause of the illness which at last obliged her to leave the company and return home. Every means was resorted to in order to save the precious life, but without avail. She drooped and faded as the flower before the blast.

I desire to mention that it was the intention of her fam-

ily to permit her to go upon this tour for the purpose of gaining a name and position, which could only be done in this way. After this was accomplished they felt that she would be able to command instead of sue for an engagement. She was successful from the start. She had grown to be a stately maiden, tall, and fair as a lily, with golden brown hair and velvet brown eyes, just as sweet in character and disposition as in appearance. She lived only three months after her return, surrounded by the most loving care and tender attention. She never kept her bed, but from day to day, until the very last, endeavored to appear stronger than she really was.

To the sorrowing and bereaved mothers who have lost by death a loved child, a dearly loved son or daughter, grown to the age of young manhood or womanhood, perhaps an only one, my heart goes out in tender sympathy and I would say that those loved ones have only been removed from your waking senses. They are not lost, but gone a little while before. When night falls over the land, in visions and dreams we may meet and know our own and receive consolation in the thought that we must not selfishly grieve over the good that has come to them sooner than to ourselves. Just as those who have passed to the beyond rejoice when good comes to the friends whom they have left upon earth, so should we rejoice instead of grieve. In the good time coming all will meet in the great beyond, where there is no sickness or sorrow no sin to mar the complete happiness of God's people, the children of Israel.