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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

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Literature.

WHY THUS LONGING?

Why thus longing, thus forever sighing,
For the far off, unattained, and dim;
While the beautiful, all around thee lying,
Offers up its low, perpetual hymn?

Wouldst thou listen to its gentle teaching,
All thy restless yearnings it would still;
Leaf and flower and laden bee are preaching,
Thine own sphere, though humble, first to fill.

Poor indeed thou must be, if around thee
Thou no ray of light and joy e'erst throw;
If no silken cord of love hath bound thee
To some little world through weal and woe;

If no dear eyes thy fond love can brighten,
No fond voices answer to thine own;
If no brother's sorrow thou canst lighten,
By daily sympathy and gentle tone.

Not by deeds that win the crowd's applauses,
Not by deeds that give thee world-renown,
Not by martyrdom, or vaunted crosses,
Canst thou win and wear the immortal crown.

Daily struggling, though unloved and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give;
Thou wilt find, by hearty striving only,
And truly loving, thou canst truly live.

[From Blackwood's Magazine for August, 1859.]

THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

A friend of mine, who is a man of letters and a philosopher, said to me one day, as if between jest and earnest:—“Fancy! since we last met, I have discovered a haunted house in the midst of London.”

“Really haunted?—and by what?—ghosts?”
“Well, I can't answer these questions; all I know is this—six weeks ago I and my wife were in search of a furnished apartment. Passing a quiet street we saw the window of one of the houses a bill, ‘Apartments Furnished.’ The situation suited us; we entered the house—looked at the rooms—engaged them by the week—and left them the third day. No power on earth could have reconciled my wife to stay longer; and I don't wonder at it.”

“What did you see?”
“Excuse me—I have no desire to be ridiculed as a superstitious dreamer—nor, on the other hand, could I ask you to accept of my affirmation what you would hold to be incredible without the evidence of your own senses. Let me only say this, it was not so much what we saw or heard (in which you might fairly suppose that we were the dupes of our own excited fancy, or the victims of imposture in others) that drove us away, as it was an undefinable terror which seized both of us whenever we passed the door of a certain unfurnished room, in which we neither saw nor heard anything. And the strangest marvel of all was, that for once in my life I agreed with my wife, silly woman though she be—allowed, after the third night, that it was impossible to stay a fourth in that house. Accordingly, on the fourth morning I summoned the woman who kept the house and attended on us, and told her that the rooms did not quite suit us, and we would not stay out our week. She said dryly, ‘I know why; I have stayed longer than any other lodger. Few ever stay a second night; none before you a third. But I take it they have been very kind to you.’

“They—who?” I asked, affecting to smile.
“Why, they who haunt the house, whoever they are. I don't mind them; I remember them many years ago, when I lived in this house, not as a servant; but I know they will be the death of me some day. I don't care—I'm old, and must soon die anyhow; and then I shall be with them, and in this house still.” The woman spoke with so dreary a calmness that really it was a sort of awe that prevented my conversing with her further. I paid for my week, and too happy were I and my wife to get off so cheaply.”

“You excite my curiosity,” said I; “nothing I should like better than to sleep in a haunted house. Pray give me the address of the one you left so ignominiously.”

My friend gave me the address; and when we parted, I walked straight towards the house thus indicated.
It is situated on the north side of Oxford Street, in a dull but respectable thoroughfare. I found the house shut up—no bill at the window, and no response to my knock. As I was turning away, a beer-boy, collecting pots at the neighboring areas, said to me, “Do you want any one at that house, Sir?”

“Yes, I heard it was to be let.”
“Let!—why, the woman who kept it is dead—has been dead these three weeks, and no one can be found to stay there, though Mr. J. offered ever so much. He offered mother, who chaps for him, £1 a-week just to open and shut the windows, and she would not.”

“Would not?—and why?”
“The house is haunted; and the old woman who kept it was found dead in her bed, with her eyes wide open. They say the devil strangled her.”

“Pooh!—you speak of Mr. J.—Is he the owner of the house?”

“Yes.”

“Where does he live?”

“In G—Street, No. —.”

“What is he?—in any business?”

“No, Sir—nothing particular; a single gentleman.”

I gave the pot-boy the gratuity earned by his liberal information, and proceeded to Mr. J., in G—Street, which was close by the street that boasted the haunted house. I was lucky enough to find Mr. J.—at home—an elderly man, with intelligent countenance and prepossessing manners.

I communicated my name and my business frankly. I said I heard the house was considered to be haunted—that I had a strong desire to examine a house with so equivocal a reputation—that I should be greatly obliged if he would allow me to hire it, though only for a night. I was willing to pay for that privilege whatever he might be inclined to ask. “Sir,” said Mr. J., with great courtesy, “the house is at your service, for as short or as long a time as you please. Rent is out of the question—the obligation will be on my side should you be able to discover the cause of the strange phenomena which at present deprive it of all value. I cannot let it, for I cannot even get a servant to keep it in order to answer the door. Unluckily the house is haunted, if I may use that expression, not only by night, but by day; though at night the disturbances are of a more alarming character. The poor old woman who died in it three weeks ago was a pauper whom I took out of a workhouse, for in her childhood she had been known to some of my family, and had once been in such good circumstances that she had rented that house of my uncle. She was a woman of superior education and strong mind, and was the only person I could ever induce to remain in the house. Indeed, since her death, which was sudden, and the coroner's inquest, which gave it a notoriety in the neighborhood, I have so despaired of finding any person to take charge of it, much more a tenant, that I would willingly let it rent-free for a year to any one who would pay its rates and taxes.”

“How long is it since the house acquired this sinister character?”

“That I can scarcely tell you, but very many years since. The old woman I spoke of said it was haunted when she rented it between thirty and forty years ago. The fact is, that my life has been spent in the East Indies, and in the civil service of the Company. I returned to England last year, on inheriting the fortune of an uncle, amongst whose possessions was the house in question. I found it shut up and uninhabited. I was told that it was haunted, that no one would inhabit it. I smiled at what seemed to me so idle a story. I spent some money in repainting and roofing it—added to its old-fashioned furniture some modern articles—advertised it, and obtained a lodger for a year. He was a colonel retired on half-pay. He came in with his family, a son and a daughter, and four or five servants; all left the house the next day, and although they deposed that they had all seen something different, that something was equally terrible to all. I really could not in conscience sue, or even blame, the colonel for breach of agreement. Then I put in the old woman I have spoken of, and she was empowered to let the house in apartments. I never had one lodger who stayed more than three days. I do not tell you their stories—to no two lodgers have there been exactly the same phenomena repeated. It is better that you should judge for yourself than enter the house with an imagination influenced by previous narratives; only be prepared to see and hear something or other, and take whatever precautions you yourself please.”

“Have you never had a curiosity yourself to pass a night in that house?”

“Yes, I passed not a night, but three hours in broad daylight alone in that house. My curiosity is not satisfied, but it is quenched. I have no desire to renew the experiment. You cannot complain, you see, sir, that I am not sufficiently candid; and unless your interest be exceedingly eager and your nerves unusually strong, I honestly add, that I advise you not to pass a night in that house.”

“My interest is exceedingly keen,” said I, “and though only a coward will boast of his nerves in situations wholly unfamiliar to him, yet my nerves have been seasoned in such variety of danger that I have the right to rely on them—even in a haunted house.”

Mr. J. said very little more, he took the keys of the house out of his bureau, gave them to me, and thanking him cordially for his frankness, and his urbane concession to my wish, I carried off my prize.

Impatient for the experiment, as soon as I reached home I summoned my confidential servant—a young man of gay spirits, fearless temper, and as free from superstitious prejudice as any one I could think of.

“F—,” said I, “you remember in Germany how disappointed we were at not finding a ghost in that old castle, which was said to be haunted by a headless apparition?—well, I have heard of a house in London which I have reason to hope, is decidedly haunted. I mean to sleep there to-night. From what I hear, there is no doubt that something will allow itself to be seen or to be heard—something, perhaps, excessively horrible. Do you think, if I take you with me, I may rely on your presence of mind, whatever may happen?”

“Oh, sir! pray trust me,” answered F—, grinning with delight.

“Very well,—then here are the keys of the house—this is the address. Go now,—select for me any bedroom you please; and since the house has not been inhabited for weeks, make up a good fire—air the bed well—see, of course, that there are candles as well as fuel. Take with you my revolver and my dagger—so much for my weapons—arm yourself equally well; and if we are not a match for a dozen ghosts, we shall be but a sorry couple of Englishmen.”

I was engaged for the rest of the day on business so urgent that I had not leisure to think much on the nocturnal adventure to which I had plighted my honor. I dined alone, and very late, and while dining, read, as is my habit. The volume I selected was one of Macaulay's Essays. I thought to myself that I would take the book with me; there was so much of healthfulness in the style, and practical life in the subjects, that it would serve as an antidote against the influences of superstitious fancy.

Accordingly, about half-past nine, I put the book into my pocket, and strolled leisurely towards the haunted house. I took with me a favorite dog—an exceedingly sharp, bold, and vigilant bull-terrier—a dog fond of prowling about strange ghostly corners and passages at night in search of rats—a dog of dogs for a ghost.

It was a summer night, but chilly, the sky somewhat gloomy and overcast. Still there was a moon—faint and sickly, but still a moon—and if the clouds permitted, after midnight it would be brighter.

I reached the house, knocked, and my servant opened with a cheerful smile.

“All right, sir, and very comfortable.”

“Oh?” said I, rather disappointed; “have you not seen or heard anything remarkable?”

“Well, sir, I must own I have heard something queer.”

“What?—what?”

“The sound of feet pattering behind me; and once or twice small noises like whispers close at my ear—nothing more.”

“You are not at all frightened?”

“I! not a bit of it, sir;” and the man's bold look reassured me on one point—viz., that, happen what might, he would not desert me.

We were in the hall, the street door closed, and my attention was now drawn to my dog. He had at first ran in eagerly enough, but had sneaked back to the door, and was scratching and whining to get out. After patting him on the head, and encouraging him gently, the dog seemed to reconcile himself to the situation and followed me and F— through the house, but keeping close at my heels instead of hurrying inquisitively in advance, which was his usual and normal habit in all strange places. We first visited the subterranean apartments, the kitchen and other offices, and especially the cellars, in which last there were two or three bottles of wine still left in a bin, covered with cobwebs, and evidently, by their appearance, undisturbed for many years. It was clear that the ghosts were not winebibbers. For the rest we discovered nothing of in-door winebibbers. For the rest we discovered nothing of in-door winebibbers. For the rest we discovered nothing of in-door winebibbers.

There was a gloomy little back-yard, with very high walls. The stones of this yard were very damp, and what with the damp, and what with the dust and smoke-grime of the pavement, our feet left a slight impression where we passed. And now appeared the first strange phenomenon witnessed by myself in this strange abode. I saw, just before me, the print of a foot suddenly form itself, as it were. I stopped, caught hold of my servant, and pointed to it. In advance of that footprint as suddenly dropped another. We both saw it. I advanced quickly to the place; the footprint kept advancing before me, a small footprint—the foot of a child; the impression was too faint thoroughly to distinguish the shape, but it seemed to us both that it was the print of a naked foot. This phenomenon ceased when we arrived at the opposite wall, nor did it repeat itself on returning. We remounted the stairs, and entered the rooms on the ground floor, a dining-parlor, a small back-parlor, and a still smaller third room that had been probably appropriated to a footman—all still as death. We then visited the drawing-rooms, which seemed fresh and new. In the front room I seated myself in an arm-chair. F— placed on the table the candlestick with which he had lighted, as I told him to shut the door. As he turned to do so, a faint, soft effort made to draw the letters from my clasp. I only held them the more tightly, and the effort ceased.

[To be continued.]

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE ON THE ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL.

[Concluded.]

Mr. CONROY was in favour of the principle of election. That opinion he had formed before coming to the House, for under the present system of appointment to seats in the Council, a change of Government four years hence might cause the majority of that day to make the same complaint as the Government now made. He did not, however, approve of the apportionment of the representation. At present it appeared that all the talent of the country centred in Charlottetown, and in that House they found that all the wealth and legal knowledge were arrayed on one side; so that, if, as the hon. member, Mr. Haviland, had said, Queen's County had not a fair amount of representation, her inhabitants were amply compensated by their preponderance of wealth and knowledge. He had no doubt that the Bill would ultimately be carried, and he trusted that it would be framed in such manner that it would be permanent. He was in favour of reducing the qualification of candidates to £500, and equalizing the representation of the several Counties.

Hon. Mr. COLES said the Bill would not satisfy King's or Prince Counties, on the question of the division of representation. Under the high qualification it required, Queen's could send her men of wealth into those Counties for election, and secure their return. He suggested the gradual application of the principle. If such had been done twelve months since

there would now be four elected members in the Council, and in six or seven years probably not more than one or two of the present members would hold seats there.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND could not agree to that opinion. There might as well be no Bill introduced for rendering the upper branch elective if they had to wait for death vacancies or resignations. It was true that an unusual number of vacancies had occurred during the last six or seven years, and those contingencies had enabled the late Government to cram the Council with their supporters. The probability of similar opportunities of changing the composition of the Council during the ensuing period of the same duration was against all the doctrine of chances. It was not to be expected that the present Councillors would fall like a set of nine pins.

Hon. Mr. COLES was last year inclined to add three elective members to the present Council, making 15 in all. He repeated his objection to the introduction of twelve new members constituting the whole body, as it was impossible that their inexperience of legislative routine should not cause inconvenience; but his principal objection was that the Council would not sanction the measure.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—There was no connection between sound reason and the scheme propounded by the hon. member. If the nominee system were good and beneficial to the country it should be retained; but if otherwise, if the members of Council did not hold their seats for the benefit of the country, for whose advantage were they there? The Lieut. Governor represents the sovereign, but if the Council bears the same character, there would then be two aristocratic influences to bear upon one democratic branch of the constitution; and thus the liberties of the people might at any moment be crushed. As a representative to good men and true, he would not submit to such a state of things. Our gracious Queen desired that her people should govern themselves as they wished; and against the will of the people the parchment titles of the Legislative Councillors would be but dust in the balance.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON deprecated the introduction of such irrelevant matter into the debate. The question for decision was the immediate or gradual alteration of the constitution of the Council, the principle of election having been sanctioned by the House. The intelligence of the country had decided in its favor; and it was not the part of a wise man to run counter to public opinion unequivocally manifested. The common object should now be to make the new body as pure as possible. The proposed apportionment of the representation he considered very unfair, for while in the House Prince and King's Counties had respectively an equal representation with Queen's, it was proposed to give the latter six out of twelve members of Council. He would prefer to have the Council to consist of 14 members, of whom King's and Prince Counties should elect four each, and Queen's would have six—a numerical preponderance which would be quite as great as that County could expect.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—It was the bounden duty of hon. members to give effect to the wishes of the people, and none could entertain a doubt that the public mind had been strongly impressed with the conviction that the elective principle must be applied to the Council; and that beneficial results were not to be anticipated from its action, so long as its present composition continued. While such was the state of public opinion, there could be but little cause for hesitation as to the propriety of effecting the change immediately, or by the protracted system of gradually supplying vacancies occurring from time to time. Under the latter system, it would be impossible to say how many years would elapse before the Council would be in a position to co-operate with the majority of the House in measures of general interest. A strong remedy was required to cure the evils resulting from the anomalous situation in which the Council stood relatively to the House of Assembly—a situation to which no other Colony could show anything analogous. If the present composition of the Council justified the hope that it would harmonize with the House after the lapse of a reasonable period of time, he might be disposed to allow the change to be gradually introduced; but, constituted as it was, no such expectation could be entertained. The House would not be justified if they allowed the Council to continue on its present basis, or postponed the application of the admitted remedy. Although the Bill should not pass the Council, its sanction by the House would show the nearly unanimous opinion of the people's representatives, and its publication would have the effect of eliciting the expression of the popular wish on the subject, which would be a guide for their action next Session. As to the remarks which had been made relatively to the apportionment of the representative Councillors to the different Counties, the proper time to discuss that and similar questions of detail would be when the different clauses came up in Committee.

Mr. SINCLAIR—Admitting the necessity for a change in the constitution of the Council, did not agree with the opinion that it was so obstructive a body as some had characterised it. The people, he believed, condemned it as not being obstructive enough, as in fact a mere echo of the House. He agreed with Hon. Mr. Coles that it would not be expedient to introduce a total change at once, as inconveniences must arise from a Legislative body composed entirely of inexperienced members. He did not, however, approve of the suggestion of supplying by election vacancies which might from time to time occur. He would prefer the immediate vacating of one-third of the seats, and another third to be declared vacant in three years, and the remainder of the present incumbents to retire in three years after, by which means a total change would be effected within a reasonable period.

Mr. DAVIES was in favor of an immediate change of the constitution of the Council. It would be too long to wait until the present members should resign their seats or die. As to Mr. Sinclair's observation, that the Council was regarded as a mere echo of the Assembly, and consequently not obstructive, he could not perceive the force of the argument—as if they were an echo of the last, they must of course be obstructive to the present House. He trusted that the Bill would pass, as the change was desired by the people, and the principle had been adopted in other Colonies, and would receive the sanction of the Imperial Government.

Mr. COOPER—The Council ought to be obstructive to any rash and precipitate measure of the House; but there had been nothing in their conduct hitherto to justify the appellation. The Government might desire to make them obstructive by passing a Bill which they knew would be rejected by the Council.

Mr. OWEN—It was generally admitted that a change was necessary, and the only difference of opinion was as to the mode and time of effecting that change. If an elective Council was deemed desirable, the sooner we had it the better. He was in favor of sending the Bill to the Council this Session, as he thought the country would be dissatisfied if the measure was kept in abeyance for another year.

Mr. CONROY—As the Bill then stood there was no probability that the Council would agree to it, and the best way would be to supplant the present members by moderate means. If it were provided that one-half should retire now, and the remainder in a few years, it might meet with the approval of the Council. If the seats to be vacated were to be decided by the Council, it was probable that not much opposition would be manifested, as each member would consider that he might retain his seat, and the evil day of abdication would come to his neighbour sooner than to himself. The only other way would be to take them all by the shoulder, and shove them out; but he thought the more quietly the business could be done the better.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—The necessity for harmony between the two branches of the Legislature was universally admitted, and the soundness of the elective principle applied to the Council had been admitted by every member of the