

answered for that hooded cloak, and the dot-and-go-one limp ?

“But I could hear in the tone of his voice that he but half-believed in himself as he said it. Then, too, he was keen to know a many particulars, as to whether one of them had sight of the ghost’s face, or could hear its step on the gravel, or could say at a guess whether the right or left was the lame leg that made the limp ; but all things none who thought the figure a mere phantasy would care to know.

“Then, having proved to his liking that no ghost had appeared at all, and that all had lied severally, though like enough each thought the rest spoke true, he must needs turn up new soil, swearing it was clear it was a trick of some mischievous jade or boy—most like the latter. Let him but lay hands on him, that was all ! He would teach him to play ghost ! But then and there I lost the hearing of his words, only that he spoke loud and out-voiced my lady, showing an exasperation out of all measure with the cause of it.

“I was beginning to weary of my concealment and to let myself doubt its necessity—saying to myself that now surely all fear of persecution of the witch was over—when the thing came about I have to tell you of.

“You remember the place where he was found ? Yes, the stone fountain in the middle of the Box Walk—at least, it was a fountain once, but now it has no water. That was where I saw him.

“How do I mean—I saw him ? Why, ’twas thus. It was the early morning when none was out of bed, as I thought. The sun had not risen, or barely—one half to be seen at most, red in the ground-mist that goes with rime frost. It was cold—yes ! But the air was sweet, and I had waked at cock-crow, for the loud bird was but two yards away from my bed’s head. And when the air is