

An Explanation of a Mystery.

BY D. A. W.

FROM the days of my youth old documents, journals, records, and all such relics of the earlier times have ever had for me the greatest fascination. Whenever I hear of the discovery of anything in this line that might be of any special interest, I always make it a point to see the document, and if possible, to obtain possession of it. Failing this, I generally manage to obtain at least a copy. In this way I have accumulated in the lapse of years quite a collection of manuscript, much of it interesting for its antiquity only, while a few of the papers are still valuable as having a direct bearing on some important questions which agitate the minds of some literary men even unto this age. To this latter class of writings in my possession belongs a copy of an old document found among the papers of a relative of a great-grandfather of mine—now deceased, peace to his ashes!—who, though not then feeling disposed to part with so interesting an heirloom, kindly permitted me to take from it a copy, according to my custom in such cases.

The document to which I now refer as having to do with a question still discussed among current topics in a certain locality relates to the origin of that apparently mysterious "phenomenon" which about sixty years ago caused such a furore among the denizens of Hollow River, and which, at a later date, has furnished Mr. Senachie with a skeleton for his "Legend," published in the ISLAND MAGAZINE for July, 1900, and of which he asks if anyone can offer an explanation. In response, the "copy" to which I have referred is hereby respectfully submitted, not only for his enlightenment, but also for the perusal of whomsoever may think the matter worthy of their attention.

Before giving my transcription I would detain the reader to say that the original of it bore every evidence of age and authenticity, and with the assurance of my friend of its genuineness added to this, I trust there may not be any great disposition to doubt the truth of what was recorded in so venerable a journal.