

jury, made an affidavit that during the trial no one spoke of the case in the presence of the jury, and that nothing was said about the prisoner in their presence; that he was careful to guard them, and not thinking that it was improper, had gone with them to the prayer-meeting; that on their way to and from church they did not separate, nor was anything said to them, or any of them, or in their presence, about the case; and that at the church they were seated apart from the congregation, and that the usual services were held, and nothing was said about the case. The jurors also made affidavits, in which they say that they attended the prayer-meeting in a body and did not disperse or separate; that they were provided with seats together, apart from the rest of the congregation; that the services were such as are usual at prayer-meetings, and that nothing was said by any one in reference to the case. The conviction was reversed and a new trial was granted.

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DREAMS BEFORE THE LAW COURTS.—In the year 1695 a Mr. Stockden was robbed and murdered in his own house, in the parish of Cripplegate. There was reason to believe that his assailants were four in number. Suspicion fell on a man named Maynard, but he succeeded at first in clearing himself. Soon afterwards a Mrs. Greenwood voluntarily came forward and declared that the murdered man had visited her in a dream, and had shown her a house in Thames Street, saying that one of the murderers lived there. In a second dream he displayed to her a portrait of Maynard, calling her attention to a mole on the side of his face (she had never seen the man), and instructing her concerning an acquaintance who would be, he said, willing to betray him. Following up this information, Maynard was committed to prison, where he confessed his crime and impeached three accomplices. It was not easy to trace these men, but Mr. Stockden, the murdered man, again opportunely appeared in Mrs. Greenwood's dreams, giving information which led to the arrest of the whole gang, who then freely confessed, and were finally executed. The story is related by the curate of Cripplegate, and "witnessed" by Dr. Sharp, then Bishop of York.

On this story be it remarked that Mrs. Greenwood's dreams only verified suspicions already aroused. Maynard had been suspected at first; her dream brought home the guilt to him. It did not deal with his accomplices until Maynard, in his turn, had implicated them.

A somewhat similar incident came before a legal tribunal nearly a century afterwards, when two Highlanders were arraigned for the murder of an English soldier in a wild and solitary mountain district known as "the Spital of Glen-shee." In the course of the "proof for the crown," to use the phrase of Scottish law, another Highlander, one Alexander McPherson, deposed that on one night an apparition appeared to come to his bedside, and announced itself as the murdered soldier, Davies, and described the precise spot where his bones would be found, requesting McPherson to search for and bury them. He fulfilled but the first part of the behest, whereupon the dream or apparition came back, repeated it, and called its murderers by their names.