

# THE MYSTERY OF MARTHA WARNE.

## CHAPTER I.

I do not believe in ghosts; I am not superstitious. If I were I should be a miserable man. All stories of apparitions, visions, and that sort of thing I have always ignored; I look upon them as merely so many idle tales, having no real foundation in fact. Spiritualism I have ever believed to be a fraud; and I have no patience with those who seek to unravel the secrets of the future. But let those who have studied this subject, and who, like me, regard all such things as idle and unprofitable delusions, endeavour to explain what I am about to relate. As for myself I shall never attempt to give an explanation; it would be worse than useless for me to try to do so. When I think of all that has happened to me, my brain becomes confused and my head swims; it was only to-day that I stood still for a moment in the street, and asked myself if it were not impossible that such things should be. I could not answer the question; I cannot answer it. I shall not try. But I shall tell the very truth; I shall not change, nor add, nor conceal, a single item in the record of this, my wonderful experience.