

(The D. then retires, sees that the N. is clothed in white and is blindfolded. The D. then leads the N. to the inner door where she gives three raps.)

I. G. Lady Preceptress, there is an alarm.

L. P. Attend to the alarm.

(The I. G. then opens the door and says:)

I. G. What spirit wandering^r from celestial spheres cometh hither at this dread hour of the night to disturb the peace of the Sisters of St. John, devoted to works of Faith, Hope and Charity?

D. It is no spirit from ethereal realms, worthy Associate, but a poor Novice who, wearied of the world, its pleasures and its vanities, now seeks repose amid the faithful hearts of the Sisters of our Order.

I. G. Why then is she clothed in white, Sister Deaconess?

D. To denote the purity of her intentions.

I. G. She has our sympathy, Sister Deaconess, in her distress. We, who had a like experience, feel pity for her. But you know, Sister, the stringency of our rule. No profane is permitted to enter these walls without the consent of the Superior. I will therefore notify our Lady Preceptress of her request.

(Closes the door.)