

cottage at Blean, where the man died a few years since, nigh upon a century old. I have done this at the desire of the Lady Fotheringay, Sir Ralph's mother, whose first husband, Sir Oliver, I saw twice in my boyhood, now thirty-seven years since, I being then but eleven years of age. This woman Rackham had an ill name, having lived with this man as his wife for two years before the death of her lawful husband, Farmer Trant, of Warplesdon Farm, near Bury. It is not certain that she and Rackham were ever lawfully united, but she passed as his wife. She had the repute of being a witch too, and it was said that she had narrowly escaped the stake. This is confirmed by her own narrative, which also appears to admit the truth of some of the accusations against her.

"Until Mistress Trant made this statement, Sir Oliver Raydon's death was not connected with his habit of walking in his sleep. He was supposed to have gone out at this early hour of the morning to test the truth of the reports that had got about that his mother's ghost walked every morning at sunrise in the place where his body was found, just dead. His scanty clothing on so cold a morning was held by some to call this in question; otherwise the thing was not improbable in itself. The cause of his death was always believed to be the same as what the old woman's story gives us; that is, that he stumbled over the parapet and fell, striking his body on a stone, no great distance from the wound late healed, which broke open internally, injuring some vital part. There was profuse hæmorrhage from the mouth, none from the wound, which was thought by many to account for the suddenness of his death.

"The only person present but myself when Mrs. Trant made this deposition was my wife, whose name is here appended beside my own as a witness to its truth. Her attestation is also to that of the narrative itself in a