

it had not only its skeleton but its ghost. Patterson experienced some inconvenience and trouble in securing enough workmen for the erection of his house, on account of the prevailing belief of the carpenters then on the island, who were chiefly Scotch colonists, that the ground on which the house was to be built, was, though not expressly avowed, yet not one doubted, set apart for the use of some evil being; in fact, that it was the property of the arch-fiend himself, whom their ancestors distinguished by a name, which, while it was generally understood, could not be offensive to the dread inhabitant of the regions of despair. However, with the assistance of his servant, Martin Dwyre, a "jack of all trades"; Patterson saw, late in the fall of 1770, his house erected.

Bnt, alas! a house gets the reputation of being haunted almost as easily as a dog gets "a bad name"; and in either case, hanging, or its equivalent—desertion—is often its ultimate fate. The house was of moderate size, with a porch in front; it was also the first clap-boarded house built on the island, it had slatted shutters to all its windows, and with its small flower-garden, surrounded by English poplars in front, together with a kitchen garden and shrubbery in the rear, made a pleasing home.

Almost six months had passed since Patterson's arrival on the Island. His wife, whom he had left behind him in England, when he had been appointed Governor of this new colony by George III, was weekly expected by him. In her absence Martin Dwyre and his wife lived in the house, occupying a few rooms in the servants' quarters, which were in the rear of the house; they made all necessary arrangements for the arrival of their mistress.

Shortly before Christmas, Mrs. Patterson, who was a daughter of Col. Nisbet, Martin Dwyre's old master, arrived on the Island with a retinue of servants, and took over the charge of the house from Dwyre and his wife; allowing them the use of two small rooms, off the first hall, in the back of the house.

Great preparations were made by the Governor and his lady, for the Yule-tide festivities; a large number of guests had been invited to spend with them their first Christmas on the