

ness and propriety of its landlady, and in the summer months the hall of the establishment is sadly lumbered with diminutive spades and buckets and straw hats, the property of certain little visitors, annually increasing in number, who come under the charge of their nurse from Milton Hall.

"Now," said I, looking to my right-hand neighbour, "Irving, it is your turn."

There needed no pressing, for the ice was broken, and he at once proceeded with the adventure at the WHITE HOUSE AT MIDNIGHT.

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AT MIDNIGHT.

AT one end of our village, down beside the brook, with seven gaunt poplar trees in front of it, stood the White House. It wasn't white; it had been once, but now it wore a dingy, yellowy aspect, and towards the basement was green with wall-moss.

Of course the walls were low and gloomy, and in the garden the rank and unhealthy grass and weeds had it all their own way; of course the gates creaked when they were opened, and the doors groaned when they were closed; for the White House was, according to well-authenticated topographical history, haunted.

For years it had been untenanted, and after dusk any smock-frock'd native having to pass that way, hurried his pace, and nervously looking over his shoulder, got out of the unhallowed locality as fast as his legs would carry him.

Of course there had in by-gone days been a murder committed there, and popular prejudice lent such an odium to the place that the proprietor, an old maiden lady living in the neighbourhood, could induce no one, even under most advantageous terms, to occupy it.

Thus year after year it remained empty and desolate. It is quite true that at different periods strange lights had been seen at the windows, and more than once some terror-stricken passer-by swore to having been terrified out of his wits by a figure in white flitting about among the attenuated poplar trees, or beating its breast at the casement of one of the upper stories.

To the truth of these facts, that the light did burn, and the figure did appear, I myself can testify. Again, you will find a most elaborate account of the whole occurrences immortalized in the Reports of the Association for the Elucidation of the Mysteries of Haunted Houses contributed by a very distinguished member of that learned society, who came to take notes upon the spot.

I said I was an authority upon the matter, and now I will tell you why.