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Poetry.

SHADOWS OF DEATH.

There's a fearful thrill in my veins,
The cold, creeping pulse in my brow,
I feel that no refuge remains
Save one, for the weary One now;
I hear a voice in the breeze
That tells of a fairer home,
A murmur amidst the trees
That softly whispers "Come."
I shall go down to the grave
Just when my Sun is cleared—
Down to Oblivion's wave,
Just when my fame is nearest;
Just when the light of Affection,
Longed for in vain so often,
Casts on life's path its reflection,
The rugged way to oblivion.

Weave a wreath for my head,
And weave it of faded roses;
See that ye make my bed
Where the first pale spring flower peeps;
Faded flowers are best
For the grave of the early perished;
And quiet shall be my rest
Where the worm is cherished.

Interesting Tale.

THE BLACK PROPHECY.

I was quartered at Bhopal, in the 18th—
native infantry, in the year 18—; the King's—
foot made up the garrison. A better set of men
and officers were never collected together. The
greatest harmony existed between us. The grand
objects of our army seemed to amuse and be
amused. In India the evenings always pass
pleasantly enough, but the mornings often hang heavily
on our hands. Rajah and ballads are the only
pastimes for the persons. These, however, interest-
ing at first, become dull by frequent repetition,
and, as we have no books, as in Europe, to fly to
no power of walking, or of riding out under the
broad sun, the hours between breakfast and dinner
time often seem so years, as to force the
person fond of excitement to seek out sources of
enjoyment.

I was sitting on my cane couch, smoking my
hookah, alternately glancing at the "punch" (an
object about the size of the head of an English
screen, which, being suspended to the ceiling
by ropes, is swung to and fro by an attendant, in
order to create a artificial breeze) over my head,
and the often read pages of an old "Gentleman's
Magazine," when my head being walked in and
requested leave to absent himself for one hour.

In England such a demand would not have sur-
prised me; but in Bengal such a solicitation was
novel, I could not help asking the man his reasons
for wishing to go out, especially at the hour when
he might be required to attend my palanquin.

"It is to go to the bazar, sahib," replied the man.
"You wish to make purchases there; is it so?"

"Such is not my wish. I do not go there to buy
anything, sahib."

"To see your family, then?"

"No, sahib, I have no family there. My surviv-
ing relatives are at Allahabad."

"What do you then, go to seek?"

The man hesitated a moment ere he replied,
"I wish to consult the Brahmin Jeserie Poree."

"And who is this Jeserie?"

"The great seer, sahib. He who knows
and foretells the destiny of every disciple of
Nishana."

"And you believe in his power?"

"Sahib?" replied he interrogatively, as if doubt-
ing the possibility of the question I had put.

"Can he also predict the fate of Europeans?"

"No, sahib; nor will he ever hold converse with
them. He is forbidden to do so by a vow."

"Still I should like to go and see him."

"Impossible."

A thought suddenly struck me. I ordered my
palanquin, which stood ready in my verandah.

"Take me to Jeserie," said I, as I jumped in.

My head bearer approached, and bowing his
head, he loudly muttered, "There a ready said to
my master that the Brahmin will not receive the
white stranger."

"I know, sahib, take me to the door of
the place where this Jeserie lives, where I can
see all that passes. On our way, mind some of
your countrymen (very ready) and turn round
close the doors of the palanquin, and let it down
carefully, as it were empty; and, if asked, say
you have left me at the back of the house, and on your
way home you have stopped to learn your master's
fortune."

"Yes, a good word. There is a rupee for
you; and, if you find him, tell him you have
left me at the back of the house, and let me be
near enough to hear him. And so saying
to stop all further remonstrance, I closed the doors,

and crying out "Geldi" (go on), was soon en route
for the Bazar.

According to my orders, I was soon set down
at the open entrance of the mud house in which
the "wise man" sat, squatting on his calves, with
half a dozen natives smoking their "chubbah" (the
lowest grade of hookah) round him. By peeping
through the Venetian blinds in the panel of my
palanquin, I was enabled to see and hear all that
passed; so peering out, I began eagerly to glance around me.

The Brahmin (or "body man," for he was not, I
believe, a regular priest) sat perfectly silent in the
centre of the floor, with his eyes fixed on an
opening in the roof, as if mentally piercing the
sky which was perceptible through the aperture.
His right arm was fixed straight up, and the fin-
ger-nails of his doubled fist had grown through the
back of it. This, I am aware, may appear im-
probable to a European; but there are few who
have been in India that have not seen similar self-
inflicted tortures, the consequence of early reli-
gious views. The man before me had held up his
his arm probably from his very earliest youth; it
had now grown in that position. Unless it were
broken, nothing could again bring it down. His
clenched hand had probably been contemporary
with the other distortion; for he seemed to feel
no pain, though, as I said before, the nails had
grown actually through the flesh, and came out at
the back of his hand. His cheeks showed the
scars of many self-inflicted gashes. He was per-
fectly naked from head to foot, but wore a strange
looking necklace and armband, with a very large
round to quize round his neck. He was evident-
ly very tall, though in his present posture, I could
not tell his height. His age was about sixty.

When my head-bearer approached and made
known his wishes, the holy man, ere he replied to
him, muttered several prayers; then taking a
small earthenware pot of water, he dipped his
fingers in it, and sprinkled some on the ground,
and some on the forehead of the kneeling man.
Then throwing some yellow powder into a few hot ashes
which stood beside him, he began muttering ex-
tremely fast a number of ejaculations, with a view
of course unintelligible to me, rolling his eyes
about all the time like a furious maniac. The im-
cations complete, the following was about the
substance of his queries and prognostics:

"You are unhappy?"

"I am."

"You have lost your children?"

"I have."

"Your wife is sick—your mind is sore—no riches
accumulate beneath your roof?"

"None."

"Yet your master is kind, and your own health
good?"

"Yes."

"What is your desire with me? I tell you the
present—would you know more?"

"I would."

"What seek you to know?"

"The cause and remedy of those evils which
beset me."

Here he dropped the rupee I had given him
close to the Brahmin, who affected not to notice
it, but began again muttering his incantations,
and throwing his yellow powder around him. Sudden-
ly he started up, twisting quickly round and round,
at length he stopped with his face towards the
east, and, after a few apparently painful convul-
sions, desired the sedar to propound such questions
as he thought fit.

"How long have I to live?"

"Seven days," he statily answered the sage.

"What cause will occasion my death?"

"Vengeance for the wrongs you now suffer."

"By whom are these wrongs brought?"

"A native of Bengal?"

"No; a white man."

"And when shall these persecutions cease?"

"Only when the evil eye is closed for ever."

"And how shall I recognize that eye?"

"By the eye of the first white man you beheld
to-morrow after 'dope-dugga' (quizzing)." I think
it is a sobriety. He wore of it, and began me.

And the soothsayer told flat on his face, and be-
gan uttering a string of prayers.

In a few moments my servant appeared plunging
in profound meditation, as if engaged within his
own mind the probability of impossibility of the
Brahmin's assertions; then suddenly turning
round, he bowed to his companion, and in less
than a quarter of an hour I was again at home,
pulling away at my hookah.

"I spent a short time," said I, endeavoring to point
out to my sedar the folly of believing in a palp-
able impostor, the danger of giving ear to such
fool and nonsense. He only shrugged his shoulders,
bowed low, and held his tongue. I could not
elicit an answer from him; and I eventually perceived
the words of the fortune-teller had taken deep
root in his mind.

At noon that day I told the story to several of
my brother officers, who agreed on a future day
to accompany me, and try to induce the holy man
to foretell our fate.

The next morning I was startled from my sleep
by hearing the heavy roll of infantry, caused
by the troops, who on this day were to fire a "feu
de joie" in honor of the royal birthday. Now, as
I ought to have been present on the occasion, this
loud noise that I was fully half an hour too late
was anything but agreeable; so I started up in my
bed, and began roaring loudly (for we have no
bellows in our house) for my sedar, whose
duty it was to wake me, with the kind intention
of introducing my English horse whip to his Ben-
galee shoulders. After shouting at least a dozen
times, my kishnahar entered.

"Where is the sedar bearer?"

"I know not, sahib."

"Drive him to come here directly."

The man went out, and returned in a short time
afterwards.

"Still, the sedar is nowhere to be found. I
have vainly sought him everywhere; he has not
been seen this morning."

"Well, then, assist me to dress as quickly as you
can. But mark me well—by the waters of Ganges,
and the hundred arms of Vishnu, I'd horse-whip
him, as an example to all idle, bad servants."

My toilet completed, I called for my cash and
sword, which in this hot climate we were allowed
to wear with a white jacket and lacing cap. The
first was brought to me, but the second could not
where he found; the belt and scabbard were in
their regular places, but the sword itself was mis-
sing. This was indeed most strange; but fancy-
ing that some one had played me a trick, I for-
gotten that of my neighbor, who was on the sick
list, and hastened off to make the best excuse I
could to my commanding officer, being a good-na-
tive, not only to my wife, but invited me to
breakfast.

The colonel had a pretty daughter and an Eng-
lish brilliant table; I amused myself till late in
the afternoon; when, just as I was leaving his
house, I was horrified by the report being brought
in of the murder of a European soldier—a cir-
cumstance almost unprecedented. The body had
not been killed; it could not have, therefore, been
examined with any degree of accuracy; and, as the
deceased was known to be a most quiet, peaceable
soldier, it was out of the question that the assas-
ination could have arisen out of any quarrel or
previous ill will. It seemed from the account
given, that the poor fellow must have been quietly
walking along the road to Meerabad, when some
miserable man must have come behind him, and
stabbed him to death.

The colonel desired me to accompany him to
the spot where the heinous act had taken place,
in order to inquire into it; we therefore mounted
our horses, and galloped off.
We had scarcely proceeded half a mile when
we met a party of the 4th, bearing the body of
their murdered comrade on a rough horse made of
the branches of trees. The dead man lay re-
clined in the back. A bear in the side of the
eye of the man in the present, as we examined the
corpse. A low murmured threat of vengeance, as
the assas was ever found, was fiercely mut-
tered by the bystanders.

We again remounted our horses, and went
on, desirous of seeing the spot where the murder
had been committed. By the way we reached
the place in the back. A bear in the side of the
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"The assas's predictions were literally
fulfilled. My unfortunate sedar bearer was
killed on a gibbet near Bhopal, and his ex-
ecution took place on the day on which his fate had
been foretold by the Black Prophet."

CAPTAIN LOYD'S LEGACY.

I tell the story as it was told me. There
is no reason to doubt its truth. I was at a
navigator well known on Lake Erie and in the
port of New York twenty years ago, whose
name, despite the poplery of age, will be re-
called by many readers.

I was a passenger on board the steamer
— five days out from New York, bound for
Liverpool. It was past eleven P. M.
The passengers had all turned in, and I had
the man at the wheel, two or three sailors near
the fore-cabin, and second officer, who was
keeping the deck with him, no one was visible
— and I was taking about the time a few
years had made in steam navigation, when I
was asked:

"By the way, Lieutenant, what became of
Lloyd when you sailed in the Washing-
ton two years ago?"

"Dead, Sir, now more than five years gone,
by a pistol shot in his own hands. It's a
long story and not a pleasant one to de-
scribes, but it's nearly as true as eight bells,
and you have just lighted a fresh cigar, I don't
mind telling it."

"You see, Sir," continued the Lieutenant,
"that a few years ago, the Washington, I signed
articles as first mate of the Delaware, which
Captain Lloyd had been appointed master of.
London ship employed generally on the Aus-
tralian and New Zealand line. On this occa-
sion she was bound to Hobart Town, Van Die-
man's Land, with a cargo of furs, which
included a great number of fine otter skins, of
some such value, for which the owners had con-
sidered by the way of speculation. They were not
bad traders, and could not catch fire, as we were
pretty well satisfied with freight. The ship was
not out long for passing the straits, as we
had a spare cabin, some five or six passengers
were embarked at first class rates. Altogether
we had a fair party of as pleasant a pas-
senger as one could wish to meet."

We cleared the Channel with a fine easterly
wind, and in a short time were in the line.
The first and only inconvenience which we
suffered was from want of water. However,
we managed to catch a sufficient quantity of
rain to last us a few days, and Captain Lloyd
promised to put into St. Helena to get a fresh
supply. We had got down to within a few
distant miles of the island, and expected to make
it the next day.

"That night it was my first watch, and when
right to bed I was right glad to get
to bed and turn in. Blow high or blow low,
an officer who keeps watch will remain a
long awake when the time comes for a more
and less than five minutes I was fast asleep.

It must have been about five bells in the
middle of the watch when I was awakened by
the opening of the cabin door. It was the second
mate who begged me to come on deck direct-
ly. Supposing that something serious had
occurred, I hastily dressed myself, and run-
ning up the gangway, was in a moment by his
side, on the poop. Observing nothing wrong,
I somewhat peremptorily demanded why I
had been aroused.

"The reason is, Sir," he replied, that I am
afraid something is wrong with Capt. Lloyd.
He has altered the course, and though there
is a heavy squall coming up from the north-east,
he won't allow me to steer on sail; and he's
going on in his cabin in the queerest way im-
aginable. When I went below to report that
it was coming dark overboard, he told me to
leave the cabin instantly, and followed me on
deck. Giving orders to the first mate to put
the rudder down, he nearly brought us
back, and if I hadn't rounded in the after-
brees we should have been in a pretty fix.
Then he made me try and wear ship, saying
he was going to chase a runaway island
forever; and at last after box hauling abo-
und the main, he ordered me to make
her course north-west and keep her so. You
can see for yourself the night what he's about
to do."

I glared through the wire covered glass,
and saw that Capt. Lloyd was engaged in
what, to say the best of it, was an extraor-
dinary proceeding. A chart of the South
Atlantic lay before him, he was endeavoring
with a pocket fire to erase from it the name
of St. Helena. Wandering at what I saw
I said to the second mate, "Shut the door
quickly, Mr. Jarvis, and I'll go below and re-
lieve the Captain. So the watch was called up
and I left the poop and walked aft into the
cabin."

"You remember, Captain Lloyd, Sir? A
tired hearted man in his better moments, but
in his anger when threatened or disobey-
ed, he meant to be master of his life and
his was. When I entered the cabin he paused
in his singular employment and looked up.
Seeing that it was I, he hastily dropped his
penknife and asked me in his usual tone—

"Do you want me?"

"I replied, that I had come to inform him
that we were shortening sail, and that I ex-
pected an explanation of his conduct. His con-
fession of his conduct, but I was mistaken.

"Sit down, Wainwright, and let me wish to
concentrate on what he said to me. I obeyed,
and seated myself at a respectful distance. I
observed that he seemed to be at the steady
gaze I fixed upon him, and glanced anxiously
about the cabin as if he feared some kind of
interception."

"You must know, began the Captain, that
some years ago my grandmother died and
left me by her will an estate in Scotland and
the entire island of St. Helena.

"If ever I opened my eyes with my life
I told on hearing Captain Lloyd, in the grave-
yard was immediately near the above words. I
immediately saw that I had to deal with a man
in one of the most dangerous forms of liberty
— and on one point, but some on every other.
The full danger of my position flashed across
my mind in the instant, and I perceived the
necessity of showing apparent acquiescence in
whatever he might say. So I repressed the
exclamation on my lips and merely nodded in
affirmation. The Captain went on:

"I perceive that you are a foolish fellow, that
no undistinguished and I divided should have
been left so large a legacy; but when you
take into account that I am at the present
moment the rightful heir to the crown, you
will see I cannot be surprised. However,
it is needless to enter into these little family
affairs, as I will come to the matter I wish to
confer on you. A few days ago I received
a communication from my grandmother's—
But I thought you said she was dead, Cap-
tain Lloyd?"

"Exactly so. She however thought fit, as I
told you, to tell me last night and to inform
me that the island has been restored. That
her words were true is evident. For two days
I have carefully studied the recording, and find
that we have actually passed twice over the
former site of the Island of St. Helena."

"Having attentively to this most extraor-
dinary speech, and at once resolved how to act,
I quite sympathized with you, Captain. We
must settle the question. Let me see your
day's work."

"Certainly," replied Captain Lloyd, there it
is.
I ran my eye over the figures and found a
stupendous blunder. He had placed us to the
southward of our real position nearly two hun-
dred miles. To reach the point would have
been useless, so I said—
"If you had better turn to for an hour. It is
not too late to alter the position."

"Very true," replied the Captain. I will not.
Perhaps, as you say, it will be as well to have
seen before I go on deck. Good night.
I left the cabin and looked at the second
mate on the poop. He nodded at me as much
as to say, "Well?"

"You can go below, if you like, Mr