A LITTLE GHOST.

BY HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOFFORD.

I suppose she was a little fool—but she was such a pretty one! Large, limpid wondering blue eyes with lashes almost long enough to tangle, a skin with the rose-leaf's blush on it, a mouth as sweet and innocent as a baby's, and light, loose-flying hair half-ringleted and clustering round her white forehead, all made her face look like one in some old marvel of an ivory miniature. And then there was a certain appeal to your tenderness in her very size, fairy creature as she was; you could as easily find fault with her seriously as with a spite; and it was useless to try and reason with her, as she could never by possibility see anything but her own side of the case. She had little other education than that given by her desultory reading, although she could paint and play and sing in a pretty fashion enough. She was an orphan, and had been brought up chiefly in a boarding-school; she had some property, sufficient for her needs and use, under guardianship, and Mr. Sanghurst was her guardian. What Mr. Sanghurst saw in her to marry—this same little fluttering thing, neither woman nor child nor elf—was past our comprehension. But he was going to marry her for all that; and now they were only waiting for the arrival of her trousseau from Paris, as she entirely refused to be married with only a home-made paraphernalia. All we could do was to say we were thankful it was no one of us that was going to marry her, which as all of us, except the old colonel, young James and the professor, were women, was rather supererogatory on our part. Mr. Sanghurst, however, seemed to be completely satisfied with the arrangement, fortunately for both of them; and she herself was the blithest, happiest, little flitter-flutter of a thing you ever saw—till Agnes Fairweather came.

We were all staying with Madame Sanghurst more, at her place by the sea, where she usually lingered till the close of the year, taking care to fill the house with cheerful people who did not mind autumnal gales. Madame Sanghurst had used to stay there in her husband's day, and she could not bear to deviate from the routine of those happy years of hers; and there were always a plenty of us who found it as pleasant as she did.

Of course, Iselin—that was her pretty little absurd name—was always a member of the Sanghurst family; and one never knew, till missing her, how much her novel ways, her gaieties and glooms, and laughing tones and tempers, and perpetual dancing and lilting up and down the house, with all her own trifling but intense interests and strange commotions about other people's interests, added to its pleasures.

"Do you like that Miss Fairweather?" she said to me, sitting one morning in the bay window of my room, the red woodbines and the blue October sky through their meshes making a strong background to her delicate beauty. "I don't see what Madame Sanghurst asked her here for. I never shall when I'm Mrs. Sanghurst. She's exactly what I particularly dislike for his companion. I always did hate those intellectual beings—sort of monsters. I don't think a woman ought to know anything!"

"Why, yes. I like her well enough," I said, replying to the original proposition. "She is very magnificent in her manners—"

"Yes. She'd be a splendid head of a house, wouldn't she? I daresay every one thinks how much finer she'd be at the head of Sanghurst Manor here than this little fool. I'd like to slap her face for her! That's what I'd like to do!"

"Iselin!"

"Oh, yes, you call it what you please, vulgar and low and all the rest. Perhaps I am vulgar and low and all the rest of it!" she cried. "But I don't go about stealing other women's lovers. And she's so superior, so very superior! There's nothing she hasn't read—the Hebrew scriptures backward and the books of the Sibyl. And there's nobody she hasn't seen, from Prester John to Blind Tom. And there's nowhere she hasn't been—down the crater of Vesuvius and up the top of Cotopaxi. Perhaps she hasn't been into Symmes's Hole. I wish she'd go there and stay there. There's nothing of course you can speak of that she doesn't know about already. I mean to tell her some time that when I was a baby they took me up in a balloon and we stopped at the house of the man in the moon, and she'll say, oh yes, she spent a fortnight there once, and the cream was delicious. She ought to be at the head of a female college. She knows too much to live with white folks!"

"Iselin! What feeble little spite! You ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are growing so slangy that presently you won't be able to talk properly at all, and you are infecting all the rest of us."

"Not her, not her! I wish I could!" cried Iselin gleefully. "Hear her talking Greek roots and things with the professor—it's disgusting in a woman. I'd like to change them into a couple of Greek roots if I knew Oil!"

"You are encouraging a very wrong feeling," I said, with severity, "toward a most estimable person."

"She's no business to be so estimable and so handsome, too!" burst forth Iselin. "Look at her great black eyes—they're bold enough for a gypsy's. And she has the color of a gypsy queen. I'm only a little wax-doll. If you put me in the sun I'll melt. And those teeth of hers—I wish they were false—they always put me in mind of a wolf or some other bird of prey. I'll ask her to go into the surf and drown her. I would if I were big enough—and it wasn't too cold. Oh, isn't it dreadful to be so little as I am, not equal to——"

"To drowning the people you don't like. But really, Iselin, you mustn't talk so. You will be misunderstood. You would like Miss Fairweather very much, if you knew her."

"I never should! I don't want to know her. I don't want to like her. She is just the sort of a woman that is hateful to me. He likes her a great deal too well for me to want to like her any. Oh, why wasn't I made tall and dark and rich colored, with great black eyes and some sort of a mind in my body!" And all at once Iselin was in a little heap on the floor crying like a baby. "Oh, it's too bad for him to be tied to an idiot like me. I ought to set him free and tell him to marry Agnes Fairweather and let me go off and die somewhere. I don't care where—there she comes now. I know her step, it's just like the step of the empress of all the Indies! Hide me, quick! And don't you tell her a word I say, or I'll kill you! Yes, I will!" And before I could expostulate, and without waiting for any hiding, Iselin had gone skipping out of the other door, singing, "Good morrow, good mother," with a voice like a little flute. Of course you wonder now, as much as I did, why a man so learned, so gracious, so elegant and fastidious as Mr. Sanghurst wished to marry this marsh-light of a young girl; but when you have watched men, as I have, from a spinster's post of observation, for sixty years and over, you will only come to the conclusion that men are as incomprehensible as they are unaccountable.

It was quite evident that Iselin had chosen to be jealous of Miss Fairweather, for no good reason, of course, for nothing could be more circumspect than Mr. Sanghurst's behavior; but because she had been struck with the perception of what she was and what she ought to be herself, and with the feeling that Mr. Sanghurst would be much more fitly mated to an intellectual and cultured woman than to a fibbertigibbet, and to her mind Mr. Sanghurst's real wishes and tastes and preferences in the matter were not so important as those which she felt they ought to be.

Perhaps I should have given Mr. Sanghurst or his mother some hint of the state of the child's feelings; but it was something too meddlesome for me to do. So I only tried to console her in a quiet way, when she was quivering with excitement at seeing Mr. Sanghurst's and Miss Fairweather's heads together over a German book, or Mr. Sanghurst turning the music for Miss Fairweather as she sang in her glorious voice that seemed too large and noble for anything but the music of oratorios, or when, worst of all, he joined her in a walk through the shrubbery or along the beach. He might hold a book with any one of all the rest of us, or sing with us, or drive or walk, it signified nothing at all. But with Miss Fairweather—that was quite cette autre chose. If that did not signify anything, she felt very sure that it ought to do so; and presently the affair began weighing on her feelings so that she lost her appetite even for her favorite snow-apples, in whose red skin she had been setting her tiny white teeth wherever you came across her, lost her voice, even for the Gilbert and Sullivan tunes, lost her pretty color, her light step, and went creeping round the house like a little wan shadow.

I confess I did think of speaking to Miss Fairweather, and asking her if she had not better cut short her visit; but on the whole that seemed a betrayal of Iselin; and I felt persuaded her folly would not last, and thought it possibly better that she should see it safely through, for once and all; and I thought, for my own part, that the woman of whom I was jealous was the last one whom I should wish to know it, or have extending to me her magnanimity. But you see, never having had occasion, I knew nothing about jealousy, or the way it possesses one like a madness, disturbs itself with false visions, and finds a reason for what never existed. Mr. Sanghurst might seek for Iselina, and sit and stroll and ride with her, turn to her, appeal to her, take her in his arms—nothing to her eyes was as it was before; he did all that, she was sure, because he meant to be true to her and to marry her, even though his heart belonged to a very different person. And so as she went moaning about the house like an uneasy spirit, in those golden Indian summer days, her poor little heart was half broken within her, and she was making up her mind to a great renunciation.

TO BE CONTINUED.

$500 Reward.

—The former proprietor of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy for years made a standing public offer in all American newspapers of $500 reward for a case of catarrh that he could not cure. The present proprietors have renewed this offer. All the druggists sell this remedy, together with the "Douche," and all other appliances advised to be used in connection with it. No catarrh patient is longer able to say, "I cannot be cured." You get $500 in case of failure.

The Ontario Gazette,

The Ontario Gazette chronicles the appointment of Bryon Edward Harrison, of the township of Marysburg, in the county of Prince Edward, as clerk of the eighth division court of the county, in the room of Edward Harrison, resigned.

Letters patent have been issued bearing date the 9th day of March, 1886, incorporating James Wilson, John Pelton, John Gillespie and Duncan McKellar, of the township of East Wawanosh, Huron, and James Ross, of the township of Kinloss, Bruce, for manufacturing, buying and selling cheese and butter, by the name of "the Whitechurch Cheese and Butter Manufacturing company," with a total capital stock of $2,505 divided into 167 shares of $15 each; and incorporating John Jackson, of the town of Dundas, Wentworth; and Jacob Gould, Michael Dunbar, Charles William Simpson, James Charles Shearer, Thomas Mullens, Thomas Robson, John Broadley, Alfred Bates and John Bickell, of the city of Hamilton, for carrying on the trade or business of builders, carpenters and general contractors, by the name of "The Hamilton Building Contract Company," with a total capital stock of $3000, divided into 600 shares of $5 each.

—Free and easy expectoration immediately relieves and frees the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm, and a medicine that promotes this is the best medicine to use for coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all affections of the throat and chest. This is precisely what Bickles Anti-Consumptive Syrup is a specific for, and wherever used it has given unbounded satisfaction. Children like it because it is pleasant, adults like it because it relieves and cures the disease.

"Yes," said Fogg, in a facetious vein, "thirty years ago Charley could not read or write; now he speaks two languages besides his own, and is more or less familiar with half a dozen more. What do you think of that?" "Wonderful!" echoed the boarders. "And how old did you say he was?" asked Jones. Fogg—"Twenty-five next summer." Chorus—"H'm!"

—A. S. Smith, the hat manufacturer, has received the style of silk hat for spring both in American and English, in which he is prepared to fill orders either in the easy fitting wire brim or the regular solid brim. Ask your hatter for the wire brim hat in best quality. edx

Editor—"I should like you to write me a book—one that would make a sensation for the summer." Quilltop—"I think I have just the plot." Editor—"Who's the author to be?" Quilltop—"I think we'd better go back to the old reliable May Agnes Fleming, Hugh Conway's been writing so much lately."

—A lady writes: "I was enabled to remove the corns, root and branch, by the use of Holloway's Corn Cure." Others who have tried it have the same experience.

His face is fierce and frenzied, and
His eyes like tigers glare;
The maddest man in all the land—
Why does he pull his hair?
He holds a paper in his hand,
And sees his picture there!

Mr. Startup—"I see that Richard Wagner's dongola is offered for sale in Venice." Mrs. Startup—"Wagner? Wagner? Is that the sleeping-car man?" Mr. S.—"No; the musician fellow, you know. The gondola was his favorite instrument.

Hoarseness and Bronchitis.

—Among the many remedies used for the cure of coughs and colds, none more speedily gains the confidence of the sufferer than "Hallamore's Expectorant." For hoarseness and bronchitis its rapid effect is surprising. In private sale during 25 years it has gained for itself an enviable reputation and produced wonderful results. In 25 cent bottles at all drug stores. edx

The first annual report of United States bureau of labor estimates that 7½ per cent. of the factories and mines in the country were idle during 1885, and that nearly a million men were out of employment during the year. The report estimates that the industries of the country employ a steam power of 3,500,000 horse power equal to 21,000,000 men.

—A. M. Hamilton, Warkworth, writes: "For weeks I was troubled with a swelled ankle, which caused me much pain and annoyance. Mr. Maybee of this place recommended Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for it. I tried it, and before one bottle was used I was cured. It is an article of great value."

Fourcases of smallpox were reported to the New York police Saturday afternoon. They were all passengers on the steamer Elder, which arrived from Bremen a few days ago.

Public notice.

—All testimonials in favor of Hallamore's Expectorant are from well known residents of Toronto. Mr. S. J. Willcock, 120 Spadina avenue, says: "I have used Hallamore's Expectorant for coughs and colds for thirteen years, and would not be without it. It never fails to cure me." edx

The work of constructing a $2,000,000 bridge over the St. Lawrence at Lachine was begun Saturday by the Canadian Pacific railway company. It is intended to complete it within a year.

An official of the postoffice department at Ottawa has been despatched to Chatham, N.B., to enquire into reported irregularities at that office. Some registered letters are said to be missing.

—It may be only a trifling cold, but neglect it and it will fasten its fangs in your lungs, and you will soon be carried to an untimely grave. In this country we have sudden changes and must expect to have coughs and colds. We cannot avoid them, but we can effect a cure by using Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, the medicine that has never been known to fail in curing coughs, colds, bronchitis and all affections of the throat, lungs and chest.

M. Pasteur Impeached Upon.

LONDON, March 21.—Few of the attacks upon M. Pasteur's inoculation theory have been so audacious as an article published in to-day's Pall Mall Gazette, written by a person who claims to have personally observed Pasteur at work. The article alleges that Dr. Billings brought the Newark boys over to Paris for the express purpose of making them notorious and qualifying them as valuable attractions for the New York show in which they are now being exhibited. The writer declares that Billings himself hinted to him, while in Paris, that the matter which was being injected into the boys' flesh was something weaker than rainwater and more harmless than ordinary vaccine virus, though M. Pasteur did not know that the deception was being practised.

It Acts Like a Charm.

—Ex-Ald. George Evans, 449 Queen street west, testifies to the efficacy of "Hallamore's Expectorant" as follows: "It is undoubtedly far superior to all other advertised remedies for coughs and colds, especially in the case of children, with whom it acts like a charm." edx

Senator Frye hopes to find an opportunity during the week to begin the discussion of his resolution adverse to the creation of a fishery commission.

District Attorney Martine says that the testimony in his possession is more than enough to send Ald. Jachne of New York to Sing Sing.

—To lessen mortality and stop the inroads of disease, use Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure. For all diseases arising from impure blood, such as pimples, blotches, biliousness, indigestion, etc., etc., it has no equal. Mrs. Thomas Smith, Elm, writes: "I am using this medicine for dyspepsia; I have tried many remedies, but this is the only one that has done me any good."

The officers and crew of the Oregon returned to England by the steamship Catalonia on Saturday.

Secretary Manning will on Monday issue a call for ten million of 3 per cent. bonds. The call will mature May 1.

—Worms derange the whole system. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator derranges worms, and gives rest to the sufferer. It only costs twenty-five cents to try it and be convinced.

Jake Sharp, the president of the Broadway railway, New York, expects arrest to-day.

New York merchants offer to expend $3000 on the recovery of the mail bags from the Oregon.

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63 AND 65 ADELAIDE ST. WEST.

Next door to Grand's.

The Leading House in the Trade for Fine Carriages in all the Leading Styles in Gladstone, Surreys, Tea Carts, Village Carts, Physicians' Pheatons, Family Pheatons, Open and Top Business Buggies, Victorias of the Latest Designs, etc. 624

The Rest End Cab and Coupe Stand, 297 Queen street east. Open Day and Night. Telephone No. 1467. 246

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Bar supplied with Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars, etc., etc. Restaurant supplied with the choicest the market affords.

Fresh Count Oysters received daily from New York. Shell oysters a specialty.

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Rossin House Billiard Room re-opened, after being thoroughly renovated, is now the most elaborate, handsome, and complete billiard room on the continent.

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