

the subject of his spook sub-tenants, except to assert with firmness that they were a real presence and behaved themselves unseemly. But it is hard for even the quietest ghost to find a welcome. People have an absurd prejudice against them and refuse to make them feel at home. A ghost may occupy a mere streak of sunlight or the space of a moonbeam but no one seems to want him around. I have never heard of a ghost that wears squeaky shoes or whistles "Bedelia." But in spite of his unobtrusive ways the ghost is not a domestic pet and probably never will be. His appetite is next to nothing but his appearance is resented.

After all, the ghost is somewhat to be blamed. He is not troublesome in any strenuous style but he fails to show that spirit of comradeship which usually makes friends. He may have been the jolliest of good fellows when he tabernacled in the flesh, but spookship has changed all that and made him a positively glum and taciturn creature. Sometimes he does groan, and in that case he is decidedly irritating because he never will tell just what is the matter with him and his host doesn't know whether to offer him a cocktail or an iron pill. The shrieking ghost is nearly always feminine and indulges in that unpleasant practice popularly called "curdling the blood." She waits until the very youngest member of the family is peacefully slumbering and then opens her immaterial mouth and emits a high soprano shriek that curls every hair on the baby's head. Perhaps it was a ghost like this which disturbed the poet's household. No wonder that the author of "Nero" and other idylls objected to her loud ways and decided that an early move would save a later pilgrimage to the lunatic asylum.

Canada has a comparatively limited stock of spooks. A new country cannot hope to do much in the fine arts and ghosts are extremely particular as a rule about styles of architecture. They prefer old abbeys, ancient castles and ruined towers. The ghost will never be a democrat and simply loathes co-operative house-keeping and cheap lunches. However, even in the land of the Maple there are a few abodes which have a haunting distinction. Niagara has several old houses where ghosts of military gentlemen have been known to promenade. Hamilton possesses at least two haunted houses, while Montreal and Quebec, as becomes their dignified age, have several dwellings where spirits give an occasional performance. Toronto is quite plebeian in this respect but there is a Rosedale ghost that does credit to his bringing-up and has been known to alarm a series of households. But of course we do not believe in ghosts—in the daytime.

J. G.

A Girl's Wish

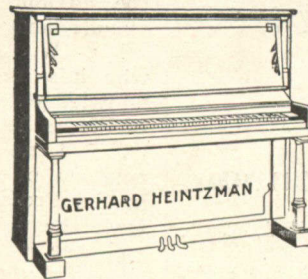
I wish I was a little boy
Like Tom, and then I'd wear
My hair quite short, and Buster suits
And have a Teddy bear.

But then I couldn't play with dolls,
And wouldn't have a curl,
Goodness! but I guess I'd best
Be glad I'm just a girl.

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