

A Mysterious Message

And Other Historical Stories.

(H. F. SHORTIS.)

When events happen that cannot be ascribed to any human agency, they are generally placed in the category of the supernatural. We have many instances recorded in history wherein it is stated that supernatural agency played a prominent part, as for example, the appearance of the ghost of Caesar to Brutus, the night previous to the Battle of Philippi, and the ghost of Banquo, which would not remain away, as recorded by the immortal Shakespeare in his play of Macbeth. It may be said that the great bard of Avon, possessing as he did, a wonderful power of imagery, drew from his well-stored mind the events that made up his imperishable dramas, but we have also other instances, recorded by the greatest theological writers of the ages, which go to prove that such events have happened, and are still believed by the deepest thinkers and most profound scholars of the day, after the lapse of ages. Be that as it may, for my part, I cannot see that what happened in the early days of Christianity, cannot happen in our own day, because the days of miracles have not passed, and it is only reasonable to assert that they never will pass. In my own day, I was told by a most reliable and trustworthy gentleman of an event that occurred over sixty years ago in our own country that would give the scoffers and doubters an everlasting time at their usual method of decrying everything that they cannot, or will not understand, and whose arguments, if any, invariably wind up with the stereotyped sentence, "I don't believe it, and wouldn't unless I saw it." And yet these worthless, whose argumentative powers are limited to the above sentence, would feel aggrieved if one told them they possessed no brains, which, according to their own dictum, they should believe, because they never saw them. Any intelligent parrot or cockatoo could adduce the same mode of reasoning after a little instruction from a past master in training.

THE SUPERNATURAL PREDOMINATES.

For my part when events happen which cannot possibly be attributed to human agency, I am inclined to think that the supernatural element predominates. There are many instances, as I said before, to prove the truth of my words. I do not wish it to be understood that I am a believer in spiritualism, seances, crystal-gazing, table-rapping, whirling about, chairs and other articles, tea-cup tossing or card-cutting, etc. Far from it, although we have several men to-day who are looked upon as scientists, literateurs, etc., who have a large following, and who believe in those seances and mediums, and hold conference with departed relatives, present their questions and receive answers through those mediums. All these may be classed as either clever tricksters or demoniacal abominations. Amongst those who believe in such, I may mention Sir Oliver Lodge, who published an account of a conversation he held with his son, who had passed away some time previously, and the wonder of it is that, from all

appearance, he is sincere in his beliefs that he did really converse with his filial relative in the other world through a medium. The late W. T. Stead, who was undoubtedly a clever man, an able and voluminous writer and possessed of vast experience, had also a tendency that way, and the wonder of it is, that a man of the world well versed in almost any subject, should be obsessed with such a microbe in the brain as to give way and believe in the clever machinations or sleight of hand as those who run those paying institutions and prey upon the weak spots in the general make-up of humanity. Not only do they believe in those charlatans, such as Mrs. Piper and others, but they publish their belief to the world, and expect every intelligent, level-headed, and Christian mortal to believe in them also. In the olden days, such worthies, I mean the charlatans, spiritists, etc., would be burned to death, but in these days of freedom of conscience or what may be more appropriately styled, the doctrine of go-as-you-please, has such free scope that one can believe in anything, no matter how monstrous or ridiculous, and there are none to say him nay.

OCCULT AGENCIES AT WORK.

But there are cases that have been recorded wherein any intelligent man must give way to the fact that supernatural agency must have been at work to accomplish a fact that has puzzled the greatest scientists for centuries; and before I come to my story the events of which happened in our own country and amongst our own people, I shall give one from the most authentic sources, bearing truth upon the face of it, and could not possibly have any connection with or be the work of spiritists, charlatans or even duly qualified and recognized scientists of the highest degree. The method of embalming amongst the Egyptians of old was a wonderful art, and the remains of their Kings, Queens and Nobles are as intact to-day as they were three thousand years ago, as witness the mummified remains of Rameses which was taken out of its tomb and placed in a Museum some twenty years ago. And yet this mode of embalming has for centuries been a lost art, and further it never did bear upon the supernatural, because it was performed by the hands of man, and by the process, chemical or otherwise, became as hard as stone. No doubt many of our young soldiers, more especially the Blue Puttee boys, such as Capt. Bert Tait, Lieut. Cyril Carter, Lt.-Col. Jack Ryan have viewed the remains of some ancient Egyptian King, Queen or Noble, in the Pyramid of Cheops or Cephrenes, who had once been a living representative of all the grandeur, power, glory and majesty that this world contains, and who had

"Walked about (how strange a story!) In Thebes' streets three thousand years ago. When the gigantic Memnon was in all its glory And Time had not begun to overthrow Those temples, palaces and piles stupendous Of which the very ruins are tremendous."

"Perhaps that very hand now pinioned flat, Has hob-a-nobbed with Pharaoh glass to glass; Or dropped a half-penny in Homer's hat, Or doffed their own to let Queen Dido pass, Or held by Solomon's own invitation A torch at the great Temple's dedication."

ANCIENT AND MODERN. In imagination I can picture our brave boys, such as Lieut. Carter, Capt. Tait and Lt.-Col. Ryan (the talented historian of our Regiment) and the rest of them, at the base of the Great Pyramid, from the summit of which forty centuries looked down upon them, the glorious little band of heroes from far-distant Newfoundland, who were there to fight in the great cause of Liberty and Humanity, contemplating the mummified remains of some ancient King, Queen or Noble—a descendant of the mighty Pharaohs or Ptolemys and addressing it in an interrogatory manner, as if communing with the great departed:

"Speak! for thou long enough hast acted dummy! Thou hast a tongue—come let us hear its tune; Thou'rt standing on thy legs above ground, Mummy! Revisiting the glimpses of the moon, Not like thin ghosts or disembodied creatures! But with thy bones and flesh, and limbs and features."

"Tell us, for doubtless thou canst recollect—To whom should we assign the Sphinx's fame? Was Cheops or Cephrenes architect Of either Pyramid that bears his name? Is Pompey's Pillar really a misnomer? Had Thebes a hundred gates as sung by Homer?"

"Didst thou not hear the pother o'er thy head When the great Persian conqueror Cambyses Marched armies o'er thy tomb with

thundering tread, O'erthrew Osiris, Orus, Apis, Isis, And shook the Pyramids with fear and wonder, When the gigantic Memnon fell asunder."

"Since first thy form was in this box extended, We have, above ground, seen some queer mutations; The Roman empire has begun and ended, New worlds have risen—we have lost old nations; And countless Kings have in the dust been humbled, Whilst not a fragment of thy flesh has crumbled."

"Statue of flesh—immortal of the dead! Imperishable type of evanescence! Posthumous man, who quitted thy narrow bed And standest undecayed within our presence, Thou wilt hear nothing till the judgment morning When the great trump shall thrill thee with its warning."

A MASTERPIECE OF EMBALMING.

But to my mind the most wonderful case of the supernatural that I have ever read or heard tell of occurred while workmen were engaged, about sixty or seventy years ago, in demolishing the ancient Church of Urbach, which dates from the earliest period of the middle ages, and was tottering to its fall. Enclosed in the wall of the choir, which was four feet thick, was found a marble coffin, nine feet four inches in length, and adorned with figures in relief finely executed. The opening of the coffin was a difficult operation—the joints having been covered with a cement which acquired the hardness of the marble itself. It had accordingly to be broken into from the foot, and revealed an object which took the spectators by surprise—a body, clothed in the sacerdotal habit, fresh as that of a man who died yesterday. The colour of the epidermis, firmness of the flesh, the hair, the nails—all were in the most perfect preservation. The flesh yielded beneath the finger like soft wax; the limbs had kept their suppleness, and the very eyes, but half closed by the eyelids had preserved a portion of their brightness. The dead man wore a cassock of pale blue silk, interwoven with threads of pure gold, and a linen gown, extremely fine and trimmed with lace. These garments worn so many hundred years ago, seemed quite new. Round the hands clasped on the breast, was twined a Rosary of white pearls, strung on beads of gold—to which was attached a small box, in form of a medallion, made of metal whose composition is unknown. The medallion contained, on one of its faces, the following inscription, in characters which suggested the date of the

Let Us Fill Your Order With Fresh Easter Goods.

ELLIS & CO.

Ltd., 203 WATER ST. Grocers & Delicatessen Market.

Fresh Canadian Turkeys. Fresh Canadian Chicken. Fresh Canadian Ducks. Choice Fresh Lamb. Choice Fresh Veal. Choice Fresh Mutton. Choice Prime Steer Beef.

Fresh Halibut. Smoked Kippers. Finnan Haddie.

California Sunkist Oranges. California Sunkist Lemons. Malaga Oranges. Palermo Lemons. California Tangerines. California Grape Fruit. Oregon Dessert Apples.

Fresh Country Eggs.

New Cabbage. Beetroot. Carrots. Parsnips. Turnips. P. E. I. Potatoes.

New Bluenose Butter 2 lb. slabs.

Champignons. Asparagus Tips. Macadamias. Early June Peas. Extra Fine Spinach. Extra Fine String Beans.

HUYLER'S Celebrated Confectionery. SCHRAFF'S Celebrated Confectionery. MOIR'S Celebrated Confectionery.

Jamaica Cigars. "La Tropical." B. & J. B. Machado. Conchas Especiales. Governors. Gentlemen. Flor de Machado.

"SAVORY'S" Celebrated Cigarettes.

KNOWLING'S

Men's Clothing Dept.

Now is a Good Time to Select Your Spring Suit.

OUR MEN'S

Clothing Department is Now Stocked with all the Leading Styles

For men and young men. Smart but conservative styles for the quiet dresser, and more pronounced yet not extreme styles for men desiring individuality and dash to their clothes. These Suits are made up in Blue Serge, Fine Worsted and Tweed. Nothing but good grade trimmings are used, and every garment is well tailored, assuring correct style and fit.

MEN'S TWEED SUITS.

Dark & Fancy Striped Coat, 3 button, single breasted. Pants Peg Top, sizes from 3 to 7. Prices:

\$15.00, \$17.50, \$20, \$25, \$27, \$35, \$40 to \$50.

MEN'S SERGE SUITS.

Some of these Serge Suits are pure wool and could not be replaced to-day for what we are selling them. Sizes from 3 to 7. Prices:

\$14, \$22.50, \$23.50, \$28, \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45 to \$55.

MEN'S BLACK SUITS.

Plain Black Vicuna all wool Coat, single breasted, 3 button. Pants, plain leg, 3 pockets; all sizes. Prices:

\$18.50, \$20, \$25 to \$30.

MEN'S WORSTED SUITS.

Good quality all wool Worst-ed Suit. Coat, 3 button, single breasted, soft roll lapels. Pants, full semi-peg style, 4 pockets, belt loops. Sizes 33 to 44. Prices:

\$28.00, \$33.00, \$35.00, \$40.00 to \$50.00.

These Suits could not be replaced for what we are retailing them to-day; through early purchases only were we able to keep these Suits within the low range of prices.

East End, Central & Duckworth St.

G. KNOWLING, Ltd.

Duckworth St., West End & Central



Men's Vests.

In Tweed, Serge and Black Vicuna. Sizes from 3 to 7.

Price: \$2.50.

Men's Pants.

Just received a large shipment of Men's Tweed and fine Worsted Pants; all sizes from 3 to 7. Prices from \$2.50 to \$13.00 pair.

Stewards' Coats.

These Coats are suitable for Stewards, Barbers and Waiters. Made of good strong Drill. Sizes 36 to 44.

Men's Serge and Tweed Coats.

Men's single breasted Tweed and Serge Coats, strong and durable. Sizes 4 to 7.

Prices: \$9.00 to \$11.75.

eleventh century (over nine hundred years ago): Otto Emperor Parocho Irbitchiano Sculptor! Excellentissimo!—The Emperor Otto to the Curator of Urbach, a most excellent sculptor." On the reverse is the figure of the Good Shepherd.

(To be Continued.)

"Brick's Tasteless." The one who takes it must eat. Price \$1.20 bottle. Post 20c. extra. mar29,tf

IMPORTANT!

TO OUTPORT BUSINESS MEN AND THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC GENERALLY.

We are now ready for our spring business and can accommodate permanent or transient boarders. Large, bright rooms. May be used as bed-sitting rooms if desired. Meals first class.

Apply 119 DUCKWORTH STREET. (Formerly known as Army and Navy Depot.) mar24,lm,w,tf,m

A Famous Poet and Prose Author.

On Monday, April 4, 1774, Oliver Goldsmith died in London after his return from Hyde House Farm, his favourite resort in the Middlesex village of Hyde, where he wrote his "History of the Earth and Animated Nature," and another of his prose works, "The Vicar of Wakefield," and his poem, "She Stoops to Conquer." He was buried in Temple Church, London, where his tablet may be seen. A monument was erected to him in Westminster Abbey, and a statue of him in front of Trinity College, Dublin, he having been born at Pallas, an Irish hamlet, the son of a clergyman, in 1730. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree at this college in 1749 and afterwards went to Edinburgh to study medicine, but failed to pass the examinations. He then took chambers in the Temple, London, as if to become a lawyer, and there died. But it was as an author that he is celebrated, not only by his poems, "The

Traveller" and "The Deserted Village," and many shorter ones, full of humour, such as "The Haunch of Venison" and "The Clown's Reply," and sometimes of pathos such as "Edwin and Angelina;" but he wrote also histories of England, Greece, and Rome, and the abridgments of these by William Pinnock, a London publisher, who lived from 1782 till 1843, were used as the books for boys in grammar schools during the first half of the nineteenth century, as, for example, at King Edward the Sixth's school at Bath, where the boarders and day-scholars included a large number of the high social class. His History of England contains verses which, with poetical taste, he either composed or quoted, and which became impressed upon the memories of some pupils of that time. For example, of the reign of Richard the Third, "The rat, the cat, and Lovell the dog, Ruled all England under the hog," meaning that Sir Richard Ratcliffe, or Radcliffe, William Catesby, or Radecliffe, William Lovell, were the chief statesmen of the reign of Richard the Third, whose crest was a wild boar. In the reign of Charles the

Second, as the Duke of York brother and successor, was a Catholic, conspirators combined in veiling a plot which they intended to have discovered, especially Thomas Dangerfield, William Earl of Tintagel, and Israel Tongue, or Tugue, a Church of England clergyman, and Goldsmith's History contains following lines concerning them: "When Dangerfield, Bedloe, and Tongue, They declared half the nation ought to be hung."

PILES

Do not let another day pass without trying Dr. Chase's Ointment, which is a certain cure for Piles, Hemorrhoids, or Stricture. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy. Sample box free if you mail paper and enclose 2c. stamp to pay postage.

Dolichous bean outlets are made by boiling dried beans, chopping fine, mixing with white sugar and when cool turning into outlets which are dipped in egg and crumbed and fried in deep fat.