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The Devil in Place-Names

By CLEMENT ANTHROBUS HARRIS, Author of The Story of British Music. In Chamber's Weekly.

However little he may be interested in demonology, no one can wander far from his own front-door without being struck with the number of places of interest which own the Devil as titular landlord. And the traveller will be singularly lacking in the spirit of inquiry who does not ask himself to what so recurrent a phenomenon is due. Is the cause to be found in profanity, or superstition, or what?

The question will obviously best be answered by analyzing a number of cases, and observing whether any common element is to be found in them.

Among the forty or so instances known to the present writer, it is difficult to find any one common feature. But if, in place of the whole, we take groups, analysis becomes comparatively easy. Perhaps the widest generalization is to be found in the element of danger. This is clearly the case in regard to the Devil's Current in the Bosphorus, for, though hardly perceptible when the wind blows from the south-west, it runs with great violence and rapidly when the wind comes from the opposite quarter. There is a similar, but more dangerous, current between Great Barr Island and Long Island, New York. The name of this rapid, Hell-gate, is a corruption of the term given it by the early Dutch settlers. Hoell-gat, meaning 'whirling-gut.' But it is probably used in another sense by so many people that no apology is needed for mentioning it here. Our own country is not without a somewhat similar instance, for the name Devil's Throat is applied by seamen to Cromer Bay, owing to its dangers to navigation. On land we have 'Devil's Elbows.' Those known to me are both in Scotland. They each consist of a road descending a steep hill, and made zigzag at very sharp angles to moderate the declivity. One is between Braemar and Spital of Glen-shee, and the other near Selkirk. There is a third in the Mount Lofty Range, near Adelaide, South Australia; but this title, as Debrez would say, is probably a very recent 'creation.' Danger, I take it, suggested the name Devil's Kettle being given to a hole in the cliff between Stonehaven and Dunottar Castle, in Kincairdineshire. As regards shape, 'funnel' would have been a more apt description; the opening is wide at the surface, nearly circular, and narrow towards the bottom, where an inverted neck opens into a rocky cavern into which the sea dashes. The sides near the top are smooth and covered with short grass, and any one who slipped thereon would have little chance of escaping a boiling in the 'kettle.' The Devil's Beef-tub, a curious depression in the ground near Moffat, is believed to derive its name from so many cattle having fallen into it.

Fire and brimstone, the air reverberating with groans, and a crowded population of devils and lost souls characterize most pictorial and verbal descriptions of the Satanic headquarters. That unbroken bleakness, silence, and solitude may be equally terrifying does not appear to have readily occurred to either the monkish or the puritanical mind. But it has to the topographer, for he has made the foul fens titular landlord of many places on account of no worse feature than dreariness and gloom. As Sir Walter Scott refers in The Pirate (chapter xxiii) to 'The Devil's Nostle,' these two vast caverns separated by a huge pile of natural rock, in Mainland of the Shetland Islands, are perhaps among the most widely known instances, though not the most frequently visited. The tourist who has 'done' Ireland, will recall also 'The Devil's Punch-bowl,' a small lake near the summit of Mangerton Mountain, in Killarney. The water is extremely cold. This, it has been pointed out, may have suggested the name, since it would be a recommendation to an owner normally resident in a region of indescribable heat! The water is

also almost as black as ink, which would, no doubt, form an additional recommendation to the Prince of Darkness. Despite extreme cold, the lake never freezes; this may be due to a still more uncanny feature—namely, that even on the calmest day the water is in agitation. Crossing the Irish Sea and the Bristol Channel, and landing on Exmoor, we shall find the barrenness amidst which the 'Devil's Cheese-ring' stands the more impressive because of the wealth of vegetation through which we have passed to reach it. It is, as we are told in Lorna Doone (chapter xvii), 'a curious pile of rocks, bold behind one another, and quite enough to frighten a man if it were only ten times larger.' It is sometimes called 'The Devil's Cheese-knife,' which means the same thing, as our fathers were used to eat their cheese from a scoop. The rocks are placed one upon another with such appearance of design that it is difficult to regard the pile as a purely natural formation. The Valley of Rocks, of which the Cheese-ring is the leading feature, and which has been so graphically described by Southey, is about a mile east from Lynton. Captain Cook, in 1774, named a harbour on the south side of Tierra del Fuego, in Christmas Sound, the Devil's Basin, on account of its gloomy appearance. The cliffs rise so sheer and high that the sun is shut out. Similarly the sun can rarely glint on to the waters running down a chasm in the Grampians, near Comrie, Perthshire, and it would have to penetrate a thick foliage, which is said to account for the name Devil's Cauldron. The Devil's Island, off French Guiana, probably gets too much sun, but equally deserves its name from its barren and lifeless character, as, doubtless, Captain Dreyfus thought many a time!

Where a natural feature takes the form of something man is in the habit of making for himself, but is too vast to have been made by human agency, demoniacal workmanship is almost sure to be assumed. Thus in the Pass of Glencoe there is a series of natural steps so extremely like a man-made staircase as to be an instance in point. And the name Devil's Ladder has been given for a similar reason to a rocky eminence, crowned with a castle, near Lorch, on the Rhine. As the author of evil can quote Scripture, it is quite possible that he can

preach sermons; indeed, there can be little doubt that he often does so, and occupies far more pulpits than the two which Dame Nature has provided for him—one a singular granitic mass on the summit of the Brocken, in the Hartz Mountains, in Germany; and the other a remarkable precipice on an island in Tupper Lake, in the Adirondack region of New York State. But a pulpit is not more necessary to the equipment of a Destroyer of Souls than is a smooth and easy means of moral descent. And Mother Earth has provided Beelzebub with the physical counterpart of this in more than one corner of his hunting-ground. A smooth, white stone shoot, about fifteen feet wide, from the base to the summit—eight hundred feet!—of an immense block of dark-red sandstone, in Weber Canon, Utah Territory, as straight and regular as if laid by a stone-mason, is called the Devil's Slide. There is a very similar formation in Montana: 'Two ridges of gray rock stand some ten feet out of the snow and brushwood, and run parallel to each other for about a hundred and fifty feet right up the mountain-side,' says the guide-book; and the spit is called by the same name. By way of enticing those whose weakness is a love of good living, the infernal equipment includes a Devil's Frying-pan, this name being given to a circular chasm in the cliffs on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall, communicating with the sea by a narrow gully (spanned by a natural bridge of rock) which forms the handle of the pan. The phenomenon is believed to have been formed by the falling in of the roof of a cave, and that the meal-tubs of the nether regions may be well filled, there is a

Devil's Mill at Rumbling Bridge, near Dollar, in Scotland. Our ghostly enemy is generally cute enough to employ spiritual rather than mechanical weapons. Nevertheless three narrow monoliths embedded in the ground to a depth of four feet, and rising, the shortest sixteen, and the longest twenty-two feet, not inappropriately called the Devil's Arrows, the tradition being that they were shot from the Satanic bow.

But surely the natural feature most remarkable, not to say uncanny, in its likeness to things of human workmanship, is the Devil's Garden, in Hardy County, West Virginia, U.S.A. This strange phenomenon lies at the head of what is called Trout Run. On the summit of a dizzy precipice is a natural pavement of flat rocks, and on the eastern edge stands a gigantic bust in granite, the head, neck, and shoulders clearly defined, and the whole appearance savage and terrific. About a hundred feet below the bust is an even more strange phenomenon—a cave of no fewer than twelve apartments, on different ascending levels, and connected by eleven series of steps.

(To be continued.)

IT ALWAYS HEADS THE POLL

WINDSOR PATENT

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Pharaoh's Gems Brought to Light. FROM ROYAL TOMB—IMPERIAL WALKING STICKS ARE ALSO SHOWN TO VISITORS AT LUXOR. LUXOR, Egypt.—More treasures from Tutankhamen's tomb have been placed on view. The latest objects to be brought out were a large couch, a box containing the King's jewels, a miniature alabaster vase and a connection of bows and arrows and walking sticks.

Among the last-named the only one worthy of mention in comparison with the other articles was the largest stick of all, which was notable because the handle represented a figure of an Asiatic captive. It was evidently one of Tutankhamen's official staves. Its significance lies in the fact that every time Pharaoh grasped the staff he held Asia in the hollow of his hand.

The couch is almost the size of an ordinary bed. The seat is made of cane, covered with white plaster. The gilt feet are shaped to represent lion's paws, while the foot and head of the couch bear carved figures of lions, some rampant, while others appear to be supporting the top of the couch. The frame work of the couch seems to be made of wood covered with a thick layer of pure gold. The whole effect is heightened by golden hieroglyphs at either end, describing Tutankhamen as Lord of the Two Lands, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, giver of all life, stability, happiness and strength. The prevailing colors of the couch are white, gold and black, but other hues amid the hieroglyphs introduce a quieter color scheme.

But the greatest sight was the jewel box. It was about 14 inches long by 12 inches wide and deep. It is also of wood—probably ebony—covered with gold on which are worked in the most artistic fashion the King's cartouches and the images of the sacred serpent and the sacred

kingdoms of both the Upper and Lower Egypt.

A Good Speech Anybody Can Make. (From the Birmingham Age-Herald.) "That was a great speech you made to the jury."

"Thanks," said the eminent criminal lawyer. "Why, even your client would be waiting at home for her young boy was a masterpiece. She must have heard it."

"I'm afraid that was out of the question. As a matter of fact, she tells me she died when he was a baby."

Rotary Luncheon. COSBY DELIVERED the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club last evening. Col. Arthur G. Officer of the I. O. O. F. Association presiding on the evening of the Grenfell. Ayre presided and Watson, Dr. Fallon, Chas. F. Watson, expressing his regret that he was unable to attend. Col. Cosby presided on the subject of the Annual Aspects of the Rotary. My general impression is that the splendid station is not being misrepresented. Rosalind, I heard some remarks regarding Grenfell, due to the fact that he performed a noble deed in the aid of the Grenfell. Dr. Grenfell had a rich from the Grenfell. From the Grenfell. That is not so. Grenfell is not something of a lawyer. Grenfell, due to the fact that he performed a noble deed in the aid of the Grenfell. Dr. Grenfell had a rich from the Grenfell. From the Grenfell. That is not so. Grenfell is not something of a lawyer. Grenfell, due to the fact that he performed a noble deed in the aid of the Grenfell.

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Replies, to date, have been received from over 50,000 women answering that question.

98 per cent of which say YES. That means that 98 out of every 100 women who take the medicine for the ailments for which it is recommended are benefited by it.

This is a most remarkable record of efficiency. We doubt if any other medicine in the world equals it.

Think of it—only two women out of 100 received no benefit—98 successes out of a possible 100.

Did you ever hear anything like it? We must admit that we ourselves are astonished.

Such evidence should induce every woman suffering from any ailment peculiar to her sex to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and see if she can't be one of the 98. The Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Cobourg, Ontario.

Pharaoh's Gems Brought to Light.

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