

# **THE GOBLINS OF NEAPOLIS**

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The Goblins of Neapolis by Paul P. Peeradeal

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**PAUL P. PEERADEAL**

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OF NEAPOLIS**



# THE GOBLINS

OF

## NEAPOLIS.

EDITED BY

PAUL P. PEERADEAL.

(*Baron Smith.*)

*Somnia, terrores magicæ, miracula, rapax,  
Nocturnæ lemmæ, portentaque Thecæ rides?*

MORACE.

Laugh you at apparitions, sprites, and faeries?  
E'en do so, Reader: no objection there is.

DUBLIN.

MILLIKEN AND SON, GRAFTON-STREET,

BOOKSELLERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

LONDON: B. FELLOWES, LUDGATE STREET.

1836.

TO MR. AND MRS. PEERADEAL.

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DEAR PAPA AND MAMMA,

If any should think me an imaginary being, such ought not to be surprised at finding me an imaginative one; (from *ry* to *tise* is no violent transition;) nor, if I be less sprightly than spriteful in my pursuits, should they overlook that goblin pedigree, which seems recorded by my second name. Readers will perhaps be for deriding the sounds of *Paul Puck Peeradeal*; but upon my ear they fall as harmoniously, as those of *George Bubb Doddington*,\* at the least.

\* Whose *Diary* was once in request; and, I believe, is still read.

Then as to my vocation. When even

Daffodils begin to peer,

shall not the offspring of a *Peerradeal* and a *Pry* be allowed to do so? And with what view should he thus peer,—but that of cultivating a sort of *second sight*, and detecting what might escape less inquisitive and searching eyes?

For example, of detecting certain spectres; which, while in texture they may be *thin*, in number are as *thick* as those “autumnal leaves,” which strew the paths of Newtown, or “brooks in Vallombrosa.”—In the form of oral legends,\* at least,—they crowd the mouths of beldams, and ears of the shuddering audience, which these find no difficulty in collecting.†

\* Considering the meaning which *legend* has acquired, my respected friend, Dr. Search, doubts whether this expression would, even in England, be a bull; and is clear that it is not one in *Bœ-otia*, the name which Mr. Pope has courteously bestowed on the Emerald Isle.

† I have lately been assured, that the recital of fairy legends, and tales of apparitions, forms no unusual part of the entertain-

But mine is not a *demissa per aures* case. My Peer and Pry extraction (to say nothing of the peeping precepts and practice of Uncle Paul) secures to these goblin sprites a different entrée; and accordingly the phantoms, to which I would introduce my reader, are all—if he will but believe me,—in my eye.

I am, Dear Papa and Mamma,  
Your duly dutiful Son and Heir,  
(Which some will be for pronouncing air,)

PAUL PUCK PEERADEAL

My Parents having modestly declined to accept of the above, as a dedication, Doctor Search has kindly suggested and supplied one, which I substitute and subjoin. With more of frankness than of compliment, he observes, that a *mediocre* work cannot be put under patronage more appropriate than that of *Mediocrity*.

ment, at that strange conversazione, an Irish wake; a meeting which, mangre its ghost-stories, and the sight of the wan corpæ which its business is to watch, can "create," if not "a soul"—a spirit, of wild and incongruous festivity;—not indeed "under"—but over "the ribs of Death."





TO MEDIOCRITY.

---

Of vulgar thee—my Muse would sing,  
And flap thy praise on leaden wing,  
Though thou art an insipid thing,

Mediocrity.

Fortune's unenvied minion, thou,  
Still prospering, one knows not how,  
I make to thee toad-eating bow,

Mediocrity.

Ay, let unheeded talents shine ;  
Such empty splendours are not thine ;  
But solid, that the pocket line ;

Mediocrity.

Behold enthusiast Virtue glow !  
Do you, my heroine prude, do so ?  
Or quit your freezing point ? Oh ! no,

Mediocrity.

When you pursue your humdrum prosing,  
 Each mawkish, meagre thought exposing,  
 While Talent sits beneath you, dozing,  
 (Mediocrity.)

To gross and multitudinous ear,  
 Your common places oft appear  
 Bright offspring keen of Wisdom sheer ;  
 Mediocrity.

And of the powers that be,\* meanwhile,  
 Your pliant dulness wins the smile ;  
 Their plots you can nor pierce nor foil ;  
 Mediocrity.

Archbishop thus, or Chancellor,  
 Commander of the Forces,—or  
 To Cabinet perhaps you soar,  
 Mediocrity.

Thus pamper'd, you grow self-sufficient ;  
 In nothing deem yourself deficient ;  
 But are, *soi-disant*, all-efficient ;  
 Mediocrity.

\* This was written, years ago ; and then seen by many :—a fact which state, from my regard to truth, and not by way of "making toad-eatin' bow" to the now existing Powers. Let me say, in passing, see *Metaphys' Rambles*, Dialogue the Third, page 96, and foot of page 96 ; from which may be collected, that the view disclosed by this stanza was taken by the author in 1793.