

**GHOST STORIES: COLLECTED
WITH A PARTICULAR VIEW TO
COUNTERACT THE VULGAR
BELIEF IN GHOSTS AND
APPARITIONS**

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Ghost Stories: Collected with a Particular View to Counteract the Vulgar Belief in Ghosts and Apparitions by F. O. C. Darley

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F. O. C. DARLEY

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"There is the nocturnal visitor whom you have so long taken for the ghost of your mother.—Page 13.

GHOST STORIES.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DARLEY.



"The Green Mantle, without uttering a word, entered the house."—Page 112.

NEW YORK:
JAMES MILLER, 522 BROADWAY.

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GHOST STORIES;

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COLLECTED WITH

A PARTICULAR VIEW TO COUNTERACT
THE VULGAR BELIEF

IN

GHOSTS AND APPARITIONS.

With Hex Hingebfngs,

FROM DESIGNS OF F. O. C. DARLEY.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY JAMES MILLER,
(SUCCESSOR TO G. S. FRANCIS & CO.)
522 BROADWAY.
1865.

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INTRODUCTION.

WHAT is a ghost? In the popular acceptation of the term, it is a visible appearance of a deceased person. It is called also a spirit; but, if visible, it must be matter; consequently not a spirit. If it is not matter, it can only exist in the imagination of the beholder; and must therefore be classed with the multifarious phantoms which haunt the sick man's couch in delirium.

But ghosts have appeared to more than one person at a time;—how then? Can he exist in the imagination of two persons at once? That is not probable, and we doubt the “authentic” accounts of ghosts appearing to more than one at a time. The stories we are about to tell will show, however, that in a great many instances several persons have *thought* that they saw ghosts at the same time, when, in fact, there was no ghost in the case; but substantial flesh and blood and bones.

But what does a ghost represent? What is it the ghost of? Of a man or woman, to be sure. But does it appear as a man or woman only? Is it nude? Oh no! Oh shocking! This is contrary to all the rules. It always appears dressed? If the man has been murdered, it appears in the very clothes he was

murdered in, all bloody, with a pale, murdered-looking face, and a ghastly wound in the breast, head, stomach, back or abdominal region, as the case may be; but always in decent clothes. If the person died quietly a natural death, in bed; then the ghost is generally clad in long white robes, or a shroud; but still properly dressed. So then, we have the ghost of the clothes also—the ghost of the coat and unmentionables—the ghost of the cocked hat and wig. How is this?

But to cut the matter short—the whole theory of ghosts is too flimsy to bear the rough handling of either reason or ridicule. The best way to dissipate the inbred horror of supernatural phantoms, which almost all persons derive from nursery tales or other sources of causeless terror in early life, is to show by example how possible it is to impress upon ignorant or credulous persons the firm belief that they behold a ghost, when in point of fact no ghost is there. We proceed at once to our stories.

GHOST STORIES.

THE COLD HAND.

An eminent American artist relates the following story of a terrible adventure which befell him during his residence in Europe.

I was travelling from Paris to Brussels in the diligence. On my arrival one evening at a little village near Dieppe—I forget the name of it—I found the village inn so crowded that the landlord could not even give me a bed upon which I might sleep in the house. He undertook, however, to receive my luggage, and give me a lodging in the neighbourhood; and with this arrangement I was obliged to be satisfied.

After having partaken of a comfortable supper, I was waited upon by a servant with a lantern, who was to conduct me to the house where I was destined by my evil stars to pass the night. It was a lone house, of two stories, and quite small, situated on a wide heath, some half a mile distant from the inn. There were but three rooms on a floor; and on knocking at the door, I was admitted