

NIGHTMARE ABBAY

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Nightmare Abbey by Thomas Love Peacock

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THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

**NIGHTMARE
ABBEY**

NIGHTMARE ABBEY:

BY

THE AUTHOR OF HEADLONG HALL.

There's a dark lantern of the spirit,
Which none see by but those who hear it,
That makes them in the dark see visions
And hag themselves with apparitions,
Find racks for their own minds, and vaunt
Of their own misery and want. BUTLER.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. HOOKHAM, JUN. OLD BOND-STREET;
AND BALDWIN, CHADOCK, AND JOY,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1818.



Printed by Jas. Adlard and Sons,
23, Bartholomew Close.

Matthew. Oh! it's your only fine humour, sir. Your true melancholy breeds your perfect fine wit, sir. I am melancholy myself, divers times, sir; and then do I no more but take pen and paper presently, and overflow you half a score or a dozen of sonnets at a sitting.

Stephen. Truly, sir, and I love such things out of measure.

Matthew. Why, I pray you, sir, make use of my study: it's at your service.

Stephen. I thank you, sir, I shall be bold, I warrant you. Have you a stool there, to be melancholy upon?

BEN JONSON: *Every man in his Humour*,
A. 3. S. 1.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. The text notes that without reliable records, it becomes difficult to track the flow of funds, assess the performance of various departments, and identify areas where resources may be misallocated or wasted.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with implementing effective record-keeping systems. It highlights that many organizations face significant difficulties in ensuring that all relevant information is captured and stored in a secure and accessible manner. These challenges often stem from outdated technologies, lack of standardized procedures, and insufficient training for staff members responsible for data management. The text suggests that overcoming these obstacles requires a combination of technological investment, process re-engineering, and ongoing education for employees.

3. The third part of the document explores the benefits of a well-implemented record-keeping system. It argues that such a system can significantly enhance an organization's operational efficiency and decision-making capabilities. By providing a comprehensive and up-to-date view of all activities, management can identify trends, anticipate potential risks, and make more informed strategic decisions. Additionally, a robust record-keeping system can facilitate compliance with various regulatory requirements and provide a clear audit trail for external stakeholders.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the role of technology in modern record-keeping practices. It notes that the advent of digital technologies has revolutionized the way organizations manage their records, offering numerous advantages over traditional paper-based systems. Digital records are easier to store, search, and share, and they are less susceptible to physical damage or loss. However, the text also cautions that the use of technology must be accompanied by strong security measures to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access and cyber threats.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to record-keeping. It suggests that organizations should not focus solely on the technical aspects of data storage but should also consider the human and organizational factors that influence the success of any record-keeping initiative. This includes fostering a culture of transparency and accountability, establishing clear roles and responsibilities, and ensuring that all staff members understand the importance of accurate record-keeping in achieving the organization's overall mission and goals.

NIGHTMARE ABBEY.

Ay esleu gazouiller et siffler oye, comme dit le commun proverbe, entre les cygnes, plutoust que d'estre entre tant de gentils poètes et faconds orateurs mut de tout estimé.

Rabelais, Prol. L. 5.

CHAP. I.

NIGHTMARE ABBEY, a venerable family-mansion, in a highly picturesque state of semi-dilapidation, pleasantly situated on a strip of dry land between the sea and the fens, at the verge of the county of Lincoln, had the honor to be the seat of Christopher Glowry, Esquière. This gentleman was naturally of an atrabilarious temperament, and much troubled with those phantoms of in-

digestion which are commonly called *blue devils*. He had been deceived in an early friendship: he had been crossed in love; and had offered his hand, from pique, to a lady, who accepted it from interest, and who, in so doing, violently tore asunder the bonds of a tried and youthful attachment. Her vanity was gratified by being the mistress of a very extensive, if not very lively, establishment; but all the springs of her sympathies were frozen. Riches she possessed, but that which enriches them, the participation of affection, was wanting. All that they could purchase for her became indifferent to her, because that which they could not purchase, and which was more valuable than themselves, she had, for their sake, thrown away. She discovered, when it was too late, that she had mistaken the means for the end—that riches, rightly used,

are instruments of happiness, but are not in themselves happiness. In this wilful blight of her affections, she found them valueless as means: they had been the end to which she had immolated all her affections, and were now the only end that remained to her. She did not confess this to herself as a principle of action, but it operated through the medium of unconscious self-deception, and terminated in inveterate avarice. She laid on external things the blame of her mind's internal disorder, and thus became by degrees an accomplished scold. She often went her daily rounds through a series of deserted apartments, every creature in the house vanishing at the creak of her shoe, much more at the sound of her voice, to which the nature of things affords no simile; for, as far as the voice of woman, when attuned by gentleness and love,