

A N
ACCOUNT OF SOME

Imaginary APPARITIONS.

THE EFFECTS OF
FEAR OR FRAUD.

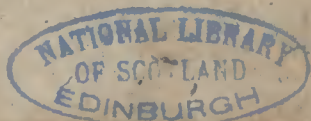
FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS.

“ Would you your tender offspring rear
With minds well form'd, devoid of fear,
Ne'er let the nurse with idle tale
Of Ghost their infant ears assail,
Or Bug-a-boo! or Chimney Sweep!
To Terrify them into Sleep.

Thus, when matur'd by rip'ing age,
And brought upon the world's great stage,
No midnight horrors vex the Soul
Of howling dog, or hooting owl!
But on they move with manly tread,
Across the mansions of the dead;
Or pass the ruin'd tower, where
Tradition says' Goblins appear.”

DUNBAR

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An ACCOUNT of some IMAGINARY AP-
PARITIONS.

An Imaginary Apparition, the Effect of Fear.

From the Secrets of the Invisible World laid open.

A Sober grave gentleman, who must not wear a name in our story, because was rather a distemper in his mind than real deficiency of brains, had by a long d use of the sprightly part of his sense, whi he really had no want of at other times, su fered himself to sink a little too low in h spirits, and let the Hypochondria emit t strongly in vapour and fumes up into h head. This had its fits and its intervals; som times he was clear-sighted, and clear-hea ed, but at other times he saw stars at noc day, and devils at night: in a word, t world was an apparition to his imaginati when the flatus prevailed, and the sple boiled up: of all which he could give no count, nor could he assist the operation phisic by any of his own powers toward cure.

It happened, that he was abroad a friend's house later than ordinary one nig but being moon-light, and having a serv with him, he seemed to be easy, and observed to be chearful and even me with a great deal of good-humour, more t had been observed in him for some time fore.

He knew his way perfectly well, for it

within three miles of the town where he lived, and he was very well mounted; but though the moon was up, an accident, which little disordered him, was, that it was not only cloudy, but a very thick, black cloud came suddenly (that is to say, without his notice, so it was sudden to him) and spread over his head, which made it very dark; and, to add to the disorder, it began to rain violently.

Upon this, being very well mounted, as I before observed, he resolved to ride for it, going not above two miles to the town; so giving spurs to his horse, he galloped away. His man, whose name was Gervais, not being so well mounted, was a considerable way behind. The darkness and the rain together put him a little out of humour; but as that was a little unexpected, perhaps it made him ride the harder rather than abated his pace.

In the way there was a small river, but there was a good bridge over it, well walled on both sides; so that there was no danger there, more than any where else; but the gentleman kept on his speed to go over the bridge, when being rather more than half over, his horse stopped on a sudden, and reared as we call it, bearing off to the right hand; he saw nothing at first, and was not much discomposed at it, but spurred his horse to go forward; the horse went two or three steps, then stopped again, snorted, and

stared, and then offered to turn short back; then the gentleman looking forward to see what was the matter, and if he could observe what the horse was scared at, saw two broad staring eyes, which, as he said, looked him full in the face.

Then he was heartily frightened; but at this time he heard his man *Gervais* come up. When *Gervais* came near, the first thing he heard his master say, was—*Bless me, 'tis the Devil!* at which *Gervais*, a low spirit fellow, was as much frightened as his master; however his master a little encouraged to be with his man so near him, press'd his horse on more, and called aloud to *Gervais* to come; but he, as I said, being frightened too, made no haste; at length with much ado his master spurring his horse again, got over the bridge and passed by the creature with a broad eye which (the light a little increasing) he affirmed positively, when he was passed, was a great black Bear, and consequently must be the *Devil*.

Tho' *Gervais* was near enough, yet fearing his master would set him to go before he kept as far off as he could: When his master called he answered indeed, but did not come on, at least did not make much haste; but seeing his master was gone and that he himself was then obliged to follow, he went on softly, and when he came to the bridge, he saw what his masters had

rted, at, and resolved to go on; of which I shall hear more presently.

His master's horse being got past the difficulty, needed no spurs, but (as frightened Horses will) flew away like the wind; and the horse continuing, his master, who on many accounts was willing to be at home, let him go, so that he was at home and got into the stable, long before his man *Gervais* could get up with him.

The master, as soon as he came into the stable, swooned away, and the fright had such an effect upon him, that when with much difficulty they had brought him to himself, he continued very ill; and when his wife and a sister he had in the house with him, as much over-run with the *Hippo* as himself, came to enquire what had happened to him; he told them a formal story, that such a bridge he met the *Devil*; that he crossed himself just at the coming off from the bridge, on his left hand, at the corner of the wall; that he stood and stared in his face, that he could distinctly perceive it was the *Devil* in the shape of a *Bear*: He gave over descriptions, so punctual and particular, that there was no room to doubt but it was an apparition, and that it was in the shape of a great bear.

GERVAIS came home soon after, and going into the stable directly, as was his business, to take care of his master's horse as well as his own, there he told the story his

way, among the other servants, and especially two or three grooms or servants belonging to gentlemen that were neighbours; and he tells them that his master was in great danger of being thrown over the wall of the bridge for that his horse was frightened at an afs which stood at the corner of the wall, and it was my fault indeed, says *Gervais*, for it was a young horse, and I had never told my master; but it was a trick he had got that he could not abide an afs, and would by all means come near one if he could help it.

And are you sure it was an afs, *Gervais* say the other servants, staring at one another as if they were frightened: Are you sure of it? Yes, says *Gervais*, for as soon as my master got by it, I rode up to it and thrashed it with my stick, and it fell a braying, which you know, says *Gervais*, is a base ugly noise, and so I came away and left it.

Why *Gervais*, say they your master believes it was the Devil, as really as if he had spoken to it.

I am sorry my master should be so frightened, says *Gervais*; but I am very sure it was nothing but an afs. But the story had gotten vent, and the first part of it flew all over the town, that Mr — had seen the Devil and was almost frightened to death.

Then came his man *Gervais*'s tale, and made it appear that Mr. —'s strange and wonderful apparition was dwindled into an afs, and that the Devil he had seen in it

pe of a bear was no more than a poor
icco; as the Italians call him; this made
matter be laughed at sufficiently.

However, poor Jarvis or Gervais was fain
urn out, and lost his place for it; and the
e Mr. — to this day insists upon it,
it was the Devil, and he knew him by
broad eyes; though it is known that a
r has very little eyes; But it is impossible
persuade any vapourish body, that they
e not seen the Devil, if they have but
something, and that they are very sure
are not sure what it is.

Another — Related in a Voyage to New York.

(From the Wonderful Magazine.)

WE had not been four days at sea, be-
fore an occurrence of a very singular
nature broke in upon our quiet: it was a
storm. One night when all was still and dark,
the ship rolling in the cradle of the sea,
before the wind, a man sprung suddenly
on the deck in his shirt, his hair erect,
his eyes starting from their sockets, and ut-
tering, he had seen a ghost. After his horror
was a little reduced, we asked him, what
he had seen; he said the figure of a woman
dressed in white, with eyes flaming fire;
she came to his hammock, and stared
in the face. This we treated as an idle
fancy, and sent the frantic fellow to his bed.
His story became the subject of every man's

mouth, and the succeeding night produced half a dozen more terrified men, to corroborate what had happened the first, and all agreed in the same story, that it was a woman. This plot thickning by time, became the observation of the captain and officers, and all were equally sedulous to discover the cause. I placed myself night by night beneath the hammocks to watch its appearance, but in vain, and still the appearance was nightly as usual, and the horrors and fears of the people rather daily increased and diminished. A phantom of this sort rather amused than perplexed my mind, and when I had given over every idea of discovering the cause of this strange circumstance, and the thing began to wear itself away—I was surprised, one very dark night, as seated upon the boats, with a stately figure in white stalking along the deck! the whimsicality of the event struck my mind that it was a ghost; I dropped down from the place I was in, to the deck on which it appeared; when it paused, turned round, and marched directly forwards: I followed it close, through the gallery and out at the head doors, when the figure disappeared, which much astonished me, as it was impossible to pass in so narrow a place unperceived. I leaped upon the forecassle, and asked of the people who were walking there, if such a figure had passed them? they replied no, with some emotion and pleasure, as I had done.

culed the truth of this narrative. This scene between me and the ghost became the theme of the ensuing day; at twelve o'clock, when the people pricked at the tub their beef, Jack Sutton was missing; the ship's company was mustered, and he was not to be found. I then enquired of his comrades the character of the man, and asked a number of interrogatories, one of them was, Jack used to tell him a number of comical jokes about his walking in his sleep. By the time the mystery was unravelled, and the unfortunate youth had walked overboard in a dream. But what gave confirmation and substance to the shadow, was the evil conscience of the first fellow, that shewed signs of horror, who, on inquiry, was found to be a flagitious villain, and had seduced a woman whom he believed always hated him, and the appearance of this ghost-walker confirmed the ghost of the murdered fair one; for in such cases, conscience is a busy monitor, and ever active to it's own relief and disturbance.

See—From the Life of J Lackington, Bookseller.

Had one day walked with my father to Holy well lake, a village two miles from Lington, where meeting with some good company he could not find in his heart to part with it until late at night. When we were returning home by the way of Rockwell-

Green, (commonly called Rogue-Green from a gang of robbers and house break which formerly lived there) having just passed the bridge, we were met by several men and women, who appeared to be very much frightened, being in great agitation. They informed us that they were returning back to Rogue-Green, in order to sleep there that night. They having been prevented from going home to Wellington by a dreadful Apparition, which they all had seen in the low way, about a quarter of a mile distance, adding, that a person had been murdered there formerly, and that the ghost had walked there ever since; that they had never before paid much attention to the well-known report; but now they were obliged to credit it, having had ocular demonstration. My father had drank too large a quantity of wine to be much afraid of any thing, and I could not let slip such an opportunity of shewing my courage; I seconded matters, and the poor terrified people to return with us; as I offered to lead the van, they were prevailed on to make the attempt once more; but said, that it was rather presumptuous, and hoped that no dreadful consequence would ensue, as all the company, they trusted, were honest-hearted, and intended no harm to any person: they moreover added that "God certainly was above the Devil." I then advanced, and kept before the company about fifty yards.

“Whistling aloud to bear my courage up.”

But when we had walked about a quarter of a mile, I saw, at some distance before, in the edge, the dreadful apparition that had sacrificed our company. Here it is! (said I) Lord have mercy upon us!” replied some of the company, making a full stop; and would have gone back again, but shame prevented them. I still kept my distance before, and called out to them to follow me;—telling them that I was determined to see what it was. They then fell one behind another, and advanced in single files. As I proceeded I too was seized with a timid apprehension, but durst not own it; but still kept on before, although I perceived my hair to rattle from my hat, and my teeth chatter in my mouth. In fact I was greatly agitated at what I saw, the object much resembled the human figure as to shape, but the size was prodigious. However, I had resolved to see what it was, and for that purpose, I obstinately ventured on about twenty yards from the place where I first had sight of it. I then perceived that it was on a very short tree, whose limbs had been wholly cut off, the doing of which had made it much resemble a giant. I then called to the company, and informed them, with a hearty laugh, that they had been frightened by the stump of a tree.

Another—From the Same.

A Terrible alarm which some years since took place in an Hospital of this city, as related to me by a Gentleman then resident in the house, who was completing his Medical education, and on whose veracity I can confidently rely.

For several nights successively, a noise had been heard in the lower part of the building; like the continual tapping against a window; which led the night nurses to conclude it must certainly be occasioned by the Spirit of one of the bodies deposited in the dead-house, wishing to make its escape that way, the sound seeming to proceed from that particular quarter. The dread of these *sagacious ladies* at last became such as totally prevented their going from ward to ward to do their duty, and determined a friend to attempt to lay this perturbed spirit, which however he apprehended would in speedily, as well as effectually be performed by the assistance of a good cudgel, than any exorcisms; he therefore instead of consulting the Chaplain, gave orders the next night as soon as the usual *dreadful sound* was heard to give him notice. This you may suppose they did not neglect doing, though at the same time they were shocked at his temerity, and apprehensive for the consequence. He immediately sallied forth, with a candle in one hand, and a good tough twig in

ner, accompanied with two of the men servants of the Hospital, accoutred in the same manner. The dead-house was passed; the life continued; though it evidently proceeded from a window at some distance in the area. When the cavalcade came near the scene of action, the window suddenly and violently broke, without any thing being seen. This my friend confessed, for a moment to occasion his making a halt; but nothing visible had escaped through the sea, it occurred to him something might have made an entrance that way: accordingly he proceeded to the internal part of the building, and on opening the door, the apparition immediately not only appeared, but disappeared, and that so instantaneously as not afford time to apply the remedy intended. And what, think you, was this dreadful visit?—A CAT.—

Imaginary Apparition, the effect of Fraud, from the Secrets of the Invisible World laid open.

A Person who kept a lodging house near the springs, at Aix-la-Chapelle, having lost his wife, committed the management of his family to his daughter, a sprightly well made handsome girl, about twenty. There were at that time in the house two ladies and their waiting woman, two Dutch misses, and a Dominican friar. It happened that as the young woman of the house was asleep one night in her bed,

she was awakened by something that tempted to draw the cloaths off the bed; she was at first frightened, but thinking, upon recollection; that it might be the house dog she called him by his name: The cloaths however, were still pulled from her, and she still imagining it was by the dog, took a brush that lay in her reach, and attempted to strike him. At that moment she saw a flash of sudden light that filled the whole room upon which she shrieked out, at the same time covering her face with the sheet: When she again ventured to look out, all was dark and silent, and the cloaths were no longer drawn from her.

In the morning when she related this story every one treated it as a dream, and she herself at last took it for granted, that it was no more than illusion.

The night following she was again awakened by something that jogged her, and she thought she felt a hand in the bed; upon endeavouring to repress it, another flash lightening threw her into a fit of terror; she shut her eyes and crossed herself: When she ventured to open her eyes again, the light was vanished, but in a short time she felt what she supposed to be a hand again in the bed; she again endeavoured to repress it but looking towards the foot of the bed, she saw a large luminous cross, on which was written distinctly, as with light, the words *be silent*. She was now so terrified, that

had not power to break the injunction, but she shrunk down into the bed, and covered herself all over with the cloaths.

In this situation she lay a considerable time, and being no longer molested, she ventured once more to peep out when, to her unspeakable astonishment, she saw a phantasm standing by the side of her bed, almost as high as the ceiling, a kind of glory encircled its head, and the whole was in the form of a crucifix, except that it seemed to have several hands, one of which again approached the bed.

Supposing the phenomenon to be some celestial vision, she exerted all her fortitude, and leaping out of bed, threw herself upon her knees before it; but she instantly found herself assaulted in a manner which convinced her she was mistaken; she had not strength to disengage herself from something that embraced her, and therefore screamed out as loud as she could to alarm the house, and bring somebody to her assistance.

Her shrieks awakened the ladies who lay in an adjacent chamber, and they sent their woman to see what was the matter. The woman, upon opening the room saw a luminous phantasm, which greatly terrified her, and heard in a deep threatening tone the words - *at thy peril be gone.*

The woman instantly screamed out, and withdrew; the ladies rose in the utmost con-

sternation and terror; but nobody came to their assistance; the old man, the father of the girl, was asleep in a remote part of the house; the friar also rested in a room at the end of a long gallery in another story; and the two dutch officers were absent on a visit at a neighbouring village.

No other violence, however, was offered to the girl that night. As soon as the morning dawned she got up, ran down to her father, and told all that had happened; the two ladies were not long absent, they did not say much, but discharged their arrears and quitted the house. The friar asked the girl several questions, and declared that he had heard other instances of the like nature, but said the girl would do well to obey the commands of the vision, and that no harm would come of it. He said he would remain to see the issue, and in the mean time he ordered proper prayers and masses to be said at a neighbouring convent of his order, to which he most devoutly joined his own.

The girl was comforted with this spiritual assistance, but, notwithstanding, took one of the maids to be her bedfellow the next night.

In the dead of the night the flaming cross was again visible, but no attempt was made on either of the women. They were however, greatly terrified, and the servant said she would rather leave her place than lie in the room again.

The friar the next morning took the merit of the spirit's peaceable behaviour to himself. The prayers and masses were renewed, and application was made to the convents of the siege for auxiliary assistance. The good friar in the mean time, was by no means idle at home; he performed his devotions with great ardour, and towards evening he bestowed a plentiful libation of holy water on the chamber and the bed.

The girl not being able to persuade the servant to sleep with her again in the haunted room, and being encouraged by the friar to abide the issue, having also great confidence herself in the prayers, masses, and sprinklings that had been used on the occasion, she ventured once more to sleep in the same room by herself.

In the night, after hearing some slight noises, she saw the room all in a blaze, and a great number of small luminous crosses, with scraps of writing here and there very legible, among which the precept to be silent, was most conspicuous.

In the middle of the room she saw something of a human appearance, which seemed covered only with a linen garment, like a shirt; it appeared to diffuse a radiance round it, and at length, by a slow and silent pace, approached the bed: When it came up to the bed-side, it drew the curtain more open, and lifted up the bed-cloaths was about to come in. The girl, now more terrified than

ever, screamed out with all her power; and every body in the house was upon the watch; she was heard by them all, but the father only had courage to go to her assistance, and his bravery was probably owing to a considerable quantity of reliques, which he had procured from the convent, and which he brought in his hand.

When he came, however, nothing was to be seen but some of the little crosses and inscriptions, several of which were now luminous only in part.

Being himself greatly terrified at these appearances, he ran to the friar's apartment, and with some difficulty prevailed upon him to go with him to the haunted room, the friar at first excused himself upon account of the young woman's being there in bed. As soon as he entered and saw the crosses, he prostrated himself on the ground, and uttered many prayers and incantations, to which the honest landlord said Amen.

The poor girl, in the mean time, lay in a kind of trance, and her father, when the prayers were over, ran down stairs for some wine, a cordial being necessary to recover her; the friar, at the same time, ordered him to light and bring with him a consecrated taper, for hitherto they had had no light but that of the vision, which was still strong enough to discover every thing in the room.

In a short time the old man entered with the taper in his hand, and in a moment all the

sinous appearances vanished. The girl, in after, recovered, and gave a very sensible account of all that had happened, and the landlord and the friar spent the rest of the night together.

The friar, however, to shew the power of the passion and the holy virtue of the taper, removed it several times from the chamber before the day broke, and the crosses and inscriptions were again visible, and remained till the taper was brought back, and then vanished as at first.

When the sun arose, the friar took his leave to go to Mattins, and did not return till noon. In the mean time the two Dutch officers came home, and soon learnt what had happened, though the landlord took all the pains he could to conceal it. The reports they heard were confirmed by the pale and terrified appearance of the girl; their curiosity was greatly excited, and they asked her innumerable questions.

Her answers, instead of extinguishing, increased it: They assured the landlord that they would not leave his house, but, on the contrary, would afford him all the assistance in their power.

As they were young gentlemen of a military profession, and Protestants, they were at first bold and incredulous. They pretended, however, to adopt the opinion of the landlord, that the appearances were supernatural; but it happened that upon going into

the room they found the remainder of the taper, on the virtues of which the landlord had largely expatiated, and immediately perceived that it was only a common candle of a large size, which he had brought in mistake in his fright.

This discovery convinced them that there was a fraud; and that appearances that vanished at the approach of unconsecrated light were produced by mere humane artifice.

They therefore consulted together, and at length agreed that the masses should be continued, that the landlord should say not a word of the candle, or the suspicions it had produced: that his daughter; the next night should sleep in the apartment which had been quitted by the ladies, and that one of the officers should lie in the girl's bed, while the other, with the landlord should wait in the kitchen to see the issue.

This plan was accordingly, with great secrecy, carried into execution.

For two hours after the officer had been in bed, all was silent and quiet, and he began to suspect that the girl had been fanciful or that their secret had transpired; when on a sudden he heard the latch of the door gently raised, and perceived something to approach the bed and attempt to take up the cloaths; he resisted with sufficient strength to frustrate the attempt, and immediately the room appeared to be all in a flame; he saw many crosses and inscriptions in jarring

nce, and a passive acquiescence in whatever should happen; he saw also in the middle of the room something of a humane appearance, very tall and very luminous. The officer was at first struck with terror, and the goblin made a second approach to the bed-chamber, but the gentleman recovering his fortitude the first moment of reflection, dexterously threw a slip knot which he had fastened one of the bed posts, over the phantom's neck, he instantly drew it close, which brought him to the ground, and then threw himself upon him; the fall and the struggle made so much noise that the other officer and the landlord ran up with the lights and weapons, and the goblin was found to be no other than the good friar, who having conceived something more than a spiritual affection for the landlord's pretty daughter, had played his infernal farce to gratify his passion.

It appeared that this fellow, who was near six feet high, had made himself appear still higher, by putting upon his head a kind of cap of imbossed paper, and had also thrust a stick through the sleeves of his habit, which formed an appearance of a cross, and he left his hands at liberty; and that he had rendered himself and his apparatus visible in the dark by phosphorus.

Another—From the life of J. Lackington, Bookseller

AT Wilkscome, nine miles from Taton, a gentleman farmer's house was alarmed every night between twelve and one o'clock. The chamber doors were thrown open, the bed cloths pulled off the bed, and the kitchen furniture thrown with violence about the kitchen, to the great terror of the family, insomuch that the servants gave their master and mistress warning to leave their places, and some of them actually quitted their service. This dreadful fair had lasted about six weeks, when a young gentleman who was there on a visit being in bed one night, at the usual hour heard his chamber door thrown open, and a very odd noise about his room. He was first frightened, but the noise continuing long time, he became calm and laid it to revolving what he had best do. When on a sudden he heard the spirit creep under the bed, which was immediately lifted up, &c. This convinced him that there was some substance in the spirit; on which he leaped out of bed and secured the door, and with his oaken staff belaboured the ghost under the bed as hard as he could, until he heard a female voice imploring for mercy. That he opened his chamber door, and called aloud for a light. The family all got up as fast as possible, and came to his room. He then informed them that he had got the

under the bed; on hearing which, most of them were terribly frightened, and would have run off faster than they came, but he allured them, they had nothing to fear: then he dragged the half murdered spirit from under the bed. But how great was their surprize and shame, when they discovered that this tormenting devil was no other than one of their servant girls, about seven years of age, who had been confined under her bed several months by illness.

Another—From the same.

THIS ghost was no sooner laid, than two others alarmed the neighbourhood; one of which for a long time shook a house every night, and terribly distressed the family; at length they all resolved one night to go over the whole house in a body, and to see what it was that so agitated the building. They examined every room; but in vain, as no cause could be discovered. So they very cautiously as well as unanimously concluded, that it must be *the devil*.

But about a fortnight after this, one of the family being out late in the garden, saw a cat boy get in at the window of an old house next door, (part of which was in ruins) and soon after the house began to shake as usual, on which the family went out to their own habitation and entered the old house where the boy was seen to get in; yet for a long time they could not discover any

person, and were just turning to come on again, when one of the company observed the boy over their head, striding over the end of a large beam that ran accross both houses.

It was then apparent that the violent agitation of the adjoining house was occasioned by nothing more than his sleeping up and down on the unsupported end of this beam.

Another—from the same.

A NOTHER apparition had for a long time stole many geese, turkeys, &c. and although it had been seen by many, nobody would venture to go near it: until at length one person a little wiser than the rest of his neighbours, seeing the famous apparition all over white stealing his fowls, determined to be fully satisfied what kind a spirit it could be that had so great a predilection for poultry. He accordingly went round the yard, and as the apparition was coming over the wall, he knocked it down and found that this terrible ghost was a neighbouring woman, who had put on a shroud, in order to deter any persons should they by chance see her, from coming near her. Thus, though she had for a long time successfully practised this new way of preserving poultry, the old fox was caught at last.