

OTHER FOOTSTEPS ON THE BOUNDARIES OF ANOTHER WORLD.

A Haunted House in the Centre of the City.
Experiences of a Night with Two Apparitions.
The Mystery as Yet Undeveloped.

It is hardly necessary for us to asseverate our entire disbelief in ghosts and goblins, although our faith may at times have been shaken by the recital of a personal reminiscence, by those in whom we have the most implicit confidence. As a general rule these stories have been located at such a distance or such a lapse of time as precludes the possibility of investigation, but we have been assured by a gentleman who resides in this city, and whose imagination or fear is not easily excited, that within the last few days he has witnessed a scene that has entirely upset his own theory in regard to these matters, and somewhat shaken his disbelief. He called upon us this morning, and related the experiences of last night, in which he witnessed a most startling revelation from the spirit land, or some other inexplicable source. We can assure our readers that our informant can have no reason for deceiving us or himself, and, further, that he has promised to give us other developments as they come to light. We will give our readers the story as related to us, concealing, as a matter of course, names, as well as special locality, for the obvious reason that we do not desire our friend to be annoyed by those whose curiosity might lead them to call, for the purpose of seeking ocular demonstrations of the ghostly visits.

Sometime since our informant was compelled to change his residence, in consequence of necessary repairs on the building he then occupied, and procured such quarters as he desired upon one of our most frequented streets, within less than a quarter of a mile of the Court House. His family had got comfortably settled in his new home, and everything was moving along in the usual quiet way. One night he and his wife were sitting at the table engaged in reading, between nine and ten o'clock, when they heard an unearthly scream proceeding from the chamber of their daughter, who had retired to bed. The father at once proceeded to the bed room to inquire the cause, and was compelled to force of a small bolt to secure an entrance. He found his daughter in a most terrible state of alarm, and upon inquiring the cause, learned from her that shortly after getting into bed, she felt that a cold, chilly sensation pervaded the air of her room, but thought nothing of it, however, until she saw, apparently bursting out of the air, the figure of a female dressed in white, which so alarmed her that she gave the scream that called her father to the room. The father endeavored to quiet her fears, left the lamp burning on her table, and went down to the room occupied by himself and wife.

From the night on which this occurred, the entire family have at intervals heard the tramping on the stairway, as of some one in their stocking feet, but none of them had seen anything unusual, save at the time mentioned. The noise made on the stairway, frequently, says our informant, sounded like a woman coming down in her stocking feet with her hoops trailing upon the stairs. The hours of these visits have changed from early in the evening until a late hour of the night; no regular hour could be fixed for their arrival.

These manifestations created no uneasy feeling on the part of the occupants, although they learned from other sources that the building had the reputation of being "haunted." Last night, however, the ghostly visitors made rather more than usual tangible manifestations. The gentleman, his wife, and daughter were sitting in a room together. He was reading to them from the Ledger of last evening, when his attention was attracted by a slight noise at the foot of the stairs, leading to the chambers above, and, turning his head in that direction, he saw standing before him what appeared to be a gentleman neatly dressed in a blue dress coat, ornamented with brass buttons, about medium height, dark hair and chin whiskers, slightly sprinkled with grey. The apparition held in its hand what appeared to be a newspaper, partially folded, from which it was intently reading. The lips moved, but no sound issued from them. The gentleman called the attention of his wife, but she declared that nothing could be seen by her. He sat for sometime contemplating the figure. Presently it quietly sat down, upon what appeared to be a split bottom chair, still gazing upon the paper. This struck the gentleman peculiarly, as no such chair was in the room. In a moment more another apparition, rather smaller in stature, and similarly dressed, apparently came from the wall, and stood before him. The two figures now stood up, facing each other, and engaged in earnest conversation, inaudible to the witness. They stood in this manner for some time. Our informant talked with his wife, who could see nothing of the apparitions, although he endeavored to point out their locality, and their actions. He gazed at them intently, for the purpose of recognizing their features, but could not identify them. He remarked to his wife that it was "a cool proceeding on the part of the visitors." After standing for some minutes, the figures as suddenly disappeared as they had appeared. He endeavors to set up no theory in regard to the matter and relates what, to him, are existing facts.

We have known the house in which the gentleman resides since our earliest boyhood; in fact ever since it was placed on the lot, and the theory of any horrible crime being perpetrated to superinduce these appearances is entirely out of the question. The house is situated in a densely populated, and tolerably compactly built portion of our city. We promise our readers, however, that we shall endeavor to fathom the mystery, and give them the benefit of our experience, but as we stated in the first place, we cannot give names or the precise locality, as we do not desire that our friend shall be annoyed with impertinent querists, nor does he wish the quiet of his family disturbed.

- New Albany Daily Ledger 08 January 1870, p. 2 col. 1

The Ghosts Again.

In Saturday's issue we gave a hastily written account of some spiritual manifestations at the residence of one of our citizens, and promised our readers that we should watch for further developments, and give them the facts as they transpired. There was a slight mistake, though not material, in our article. It was a letter that the apparition was perusing, instead of a newspaper.

On Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, as the incident occurred after the bewitching hour of twelve, the gentleman, at whose house the manifestations were presented, was aroused by a peculiar ringing of his door bell, and he at once jumped from his bed and looked out of the window to learn the cause, but could not discover any. He had just returned to his bedside, when the same peculiar ringing was heard, not sounding like the usual alarm from this source, and he again presented himself at the window so quickly that it would have been impossible for any human being to have disappeared, but nothing was to be seen, either upon the door step or the pavement for more than a square in either direction. He feels confident that it came from the same source as the manifestations of Friday night, but undertakes no further explanation. What is it? We shall wait for further demonstrations, and chronicle them as we receive them, promising our readers that we will exaggerate in nothing related to us, and may, if opportunity offers, give the premises a personal examination, so that we may not be accused of playing upon the credulity of the public.

- New Albany Daily Ledger 10 January 1870, p. 2 col. 2