

For The Observer. CHRISTMAS DAY. Again the day has far away. A Babe in Eastern manger lay. Beneath the bright and wondrous light. Of proper star with guiding ray.

TALE OF HOSPITAL GHOST

GOING UP TO HIS OLD ROOM

Extraordinary Case of Grave Robbery—The Trouble Caused by a Diamond Ring—The Apparition of William Garvin in the Corridor—The Mystery of the Patient's Room—Raleigh's Soft Snap.

Written for The Observer.

Hamil—'Alas poor ghost!' Harlot—'But soft! behold, is where it comes!'

I'll cross it, though it blast me; stay, illusion!

If thou hast any sound or use of voice, speak to me.

If there is any good thing to be done.

That may do ease to thee, or grace to me.

Speak to me!

One of the most remarkable cases of grave robbery, or, if I may venture on a piece of ugly slang, body snatching, like the deathly, mid-evil, ghoulish work of Jerry Cruncher, in Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities," is part of the past eventful history of a large town in North Carolina.

Simultaneously with this desecration of the resting-place of the dead, there was a mysterious occurrence unexplained to this day, still talked of with bated breath by the superstitious, still scouted by the skeptical and strong-minded, with "no nonsense about them."

William Garvin, a citizen of some prominence, past middle life, and unmarried, was admitted to the hospital for treatment, suffering from a complication of maladies, one of which was very serious, and at the same time so singular and complex in its nature, so unexpected in its developments, and so baffling in its baffling periods of dimming, severity and increase of violence, as to awaken the deepest interest in the superintendent and hospital staff, as well as in men high in the surgical and medical profession at a distance, an exhaustive article on the case having been contributed to a medical journal.

On his entrance into the hospital the patient was badly run down physically, and all possible care and attention were given to the amelioration of his condition—as to his diet, his hot baths, and the temperature of his room, while about one week he was subjected to mild static electrical treatment. At times he mended sufficiently to dress himself, and walk about the corridors and into the sun parlor, making the acquaintance of convalescent patients. Though never even at his best, without physical suffering, he was always cheerful, resigned, affable in manner and courteous in bearing.

Mr. Garvin was under middle height, of slender build, with dark blue, deep-sunken eyes, light hair streaked with gray, and clean-shaven except for a close-clipped mustache. He was an interesting conversationalist, having traveled much and seen much of the world, narrating his personal experiences of men and places graphically and with great effect. He had a keen sense of humor, indulging in pleasantry and badinage with the greatest composure, and especially for the night nurse, who, he was wont to remark, was a greater heroine in her role over the realm of the afflicted and the suffering than Queen Zenobia at the head of her cohorts.

But the short and uncertain spells of semi-convalescence on the part of Mr. Garvin did not deceive the skilled and vigilant superintendent and physician-in-chief. The case was very grave. The patient had been four weeks under treatment, with a view to the building up of his broken-down system that he might be sufficiently fortified by an accession of physical strength to undergo the difficult and critical surgical operation by which alone his life could be saved. The result was only partly satisfactory, for although he was better than on his entrance, he was still sadly lacking in stamina.

In a few days, after giving deep thought and the most painstaking study to the case Dr. Blank, the superintendent of the hospital, embraced the opportunity of a visit of Mr. George to the hospital, devoted to his brother through his illness, to have a conference with the two men. His face was very grave, as he informed them that the case was most serious, that the only hope of the prolongation of Mr. William Garvin's life lay in an operation, and that very soon that he would be remiss in a solemn duty if he failed to impress upon them that, while the patient would surely die without the operation, the performance of it might be fatal.

The sick man listened attentively to the surgeon; and, while his face was somewhat saddened, there was no tremor of his voice, or visible falling away of his nerve, as he replied that the information conveyed gave him no surprise, that he had long known his condition as well as an unprofessional man could know it; that he was in the hands of the physicians, and the issue was in the hands of God. Three days later William Garvin was carried into the operating room, but embedded nature could not be pained, the shock of the ordeal, and he passed away a few days afterwards, never having regained consciousness.

Being without family his body was removed to the residence of his wife, interest many. Every person should know that good health is impossible if the kidneys are diseased. Foley's Kidney Cure will cure kidney and bladder disease in every form, and will build up and strengthen the system so they will perform their duties properly. No danger of catheter if Foley's Kidney Cure is taken in time. R. H. Jordan & Co.

brother, from which the funeral exercises took place. While the attendants were preparing his remains for the coffin, one of them was on the point of drawing a ring from one of the fingers of Mr. George Garvin, when he saw his hand. "That ring," he said, "was my brother's most precious possession, the gift of our mother, and he has often declared that even in death he did not wish to be parted from it. Let the gleam and flash of this poor stone be extinguished in the grave with his cold clay." This decision of Mr. Garvin, unimportant in itself, was productive of momentous consequences. The ring was a handsome piece of jewelry of single diamond, but of great value, having cost probably \$25 or \$40, but everything connected with the case of William Garvin created great interest in the community—his long stay in the hospital, the fatal operation, the funeral, etc. An exaggerated rumor spread from one end of the city to the other that a dead man had been buried with a cluster diamond ring on his finger worth \$2,000, and a magnificent gold watch and chain worth \$300 or \$400.

Two or three nights after William Garvin was laid to rest, and just after the night nurse in the ward had gone on duty, while a group of day nurses, off work, were standing about midway of the corridor on the second floor, from the lobby on the first floor on which the main entrance opened, a man, bareheaded, came slowly up the stairs, looking upward, his face very white and smiling on his lips. At first he attracted no notice, being taken for a convalescent patient walking about. But as he neared the landing one of the nurses turned toward him, when her face flushed, she started with a gasp and she threw out her hands in amazement and terror. The man slowly passed the group of nurses, all gazing at him, petrified, "as if some Gorgon horror had turned them into stone upon the spot, mounted the second stairway, supporting himself with his hand on the balustrade, looking down on them with white face and set smile, as he said: "I suppose I can go on up to my old room."

Then a shriek after shriek rent the air, re-echoed by screams from above as this mysterious visitor reacted the next corridor. One nurse fainted dead away while another rushed down into the lobby and into the office of the superintendent, who was seated at his desk, falling on her knees and crying, "Great God, Dr. Blank, the dead man, Mr. Garvin, is walking about the corridors!" He spoke to us, he smiled at us; we all recognized him! He is up there now!" She fairly shivered in an ecstasy of fright. Dr. Blank was at first much incensed at such a breach of discipline and such senseless behavior, probably growing out of a cruel practical joke, and was about to berate the poor nurse severely, when her agonized face stopped him. Raising her from the floor, he said, "My girl, all this folly you are needlessly scared by some practical joker—but she broke away from him, throwing herself on a lounge, and sobbing piteously.

Dr. Blank hastened up to the second floor, where he met the resident physician and the head nurse, both at a loss to understand the excitement. The fainting nurse had come to herself, and was crouched in an angle of the wall, her face hidden, and rocking herself to and fro. "Shut all the patients' room doors, and quiet these fools," he said to the head nurse, going on with the resident physician to the room on the third floor occupied by Garvin. The door was wide open, and the electric light ablaze, which was an unusual, as the room had been vacant since his death. The window was also open, and the curtain was being out horizontally, as if under the impulse of a violent wind, though there was not even a light breeze at the time. Of course there was no one in the room, and the two men thought of a moment's loss. Suddenly the resident physician exclaimed: "See there on the bed, Dr. Blank!" Plainly visible on the pillow was the deep impress of a head, and outlined on the top of the covering were the indentations of shoulders, elbows and feet, where some one had lain. Dr. Blank was by this time bending over the bed; and, starting back, he cried: "Look here John!" Following the outline of the form was a thin streak of mixed clay and sand, such as would be found in the clothing of one coming in contact with the earth of a new-made grave.

The superintendent stood for a minute or two looking down on the floor in troubled and perplexed thought, as was evident from the expression of his face. Then he went down to the clerk's office and telephoned a request to Mr. George Garvin that he would come to the hospital at once, on a matter of interest. After all he had thought, he had lighted a cigar and seated himself in an arm-chair. "I have only a 'cock-and-bull' story to tell him. But this is too tangled a skein for me to unwind. I take no stock in ghosts, but there is something unaccountable here."

When Mr. Garvin arrived, and this amazing story was related to him he was plainly much impressed, and by no means so skeptical as Dr. Blank. When shown the bed and the streak of sand and clay, his face turned white, and he was deeply agitated. "Mr. Garvin," said the superintendent, "your bereavement has naturally set you apart from the town's doings for the past day or two. It is a pity to tell you that the fact of your brother being buried with a ring on his finger as been magnified by rumor into his burial with diamonds and a watch on his body worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000."

Garvin started as if he had been shot. An instant after he exclaimed: "Dr. Blank, is your carriage at the door?" A lantern and to the cemetery. The superintendent caught at his meaning by intuition, and in five minutes the two men were being cried, gliding at Dr. Blank: "This grave had been dug out, the coffin was broken open, the body was gone!" "Oh, God!" exclaimed Garvin, "what does this mean?" Suddenly he smiled, glancing at Dr. Blank. "This desecration has been done for the purpose of dissection." Then remembering himself, he continued more mildly: "Can it be possible that medical students, knowing the remarkable case of my brother, could have committed this?" "It does not by any means follow," said the physician, "that this grave has been opened for the purpose you have in your mind. The wretches guilty of this desecration for theft would desire to create that very impression, if they left the grave open with the body in the coffin, of course the truth would be known at once. The nights are short, and to excavate and refill the grave would consume too much time. Therefore they somewhere concealed the body, probably dug a grave for it before they began this work here."

The three men, including the carriage driver, at once began a search their way guided by the lantern; and the surrounding country they found the new-made grave near a small creek. Flashes as they were, the rob-

bers were not brutal enough to leave the face exposed, which they had sheltered by a cloth from the overlying earth. They restored to its resting place the lifeless form of poor William Garvin, and let us hope that since then the sleep has been sound and undisturbed of one who had suffered so much in life. The diamond ring had been taken from the dead man's hand, Day was breaking when they finished their task, and George Garvin piteously implored the other two to keep secret this horrible affair. The temptation to tell so wonderful a story was probably too strong for the carriage driver; but he must have told it to but few, for it was little known.

About a year afterwards George Garvin chanced to read in a newspaper an account of the arrest in South Carolina of a negro for burglary. In the description of the man was the statement that he wore on his finger a handsome diamond ring, inscribed on the inside "A. E. G. to W. G." Mr. Garvin went to the South Carolina town, identified the ring, and, to avoid disclosures, paid the negro liberally for it. He would not affirm nor deny that he had ever been in that town, though he was a stranger to Mr. Garvin.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- Name day: December. Sun rises at 7:25; sets at 4:35. 1820.—The Plymouth settlers having fixed upon a place for a town, on a high ground facing the bay, where the land was cleared and the water excellent, as many as could conveniently, went ashore and secured timber for the erection of a building for common use. 1832.—John Cotton, the first minister of Boston, died. 1747.—The colonial house and records of Boston destroyed by fire. 1777.—Washington had 2,898 men unfit for duty, "owing to their being barefooted and otherwise naked." His whole force fit for duty amounted to 8,200. 1788.—Samuel Cooper, one of the most celebrated divines and politicians of New England, died. 1783.—General Washington delivered up his commission to Congress at Annapolis. 1814.—Battle at Villaret's plantation, near New Orleans, between 2,000 Americans under General Jackson and about 4,000 British under General Keane. American loss, 213; British loss, 305. 1832.—Civil war in Mexico terminated by a convention at Zalaveta of delegates from the armies of Bustamante and Santa Anna. 1846.—James Stevenson, one of the oldest of the Seneca chiefs and a friend of Red Jacket, died on the Catskill reservation, aged 81. He was the son of an English officer, who vainly tried to persuade his beautiful Indian wife to accompany him to England. 1862.—The Confederates attacked General Sigel at Dumfries, Va., but were repulsed. 1864.—Members of the Fenian Brotherhood in Chicago urged war against England because of the St. Albans raid from Canada. They pledged a force of 5,000 men. 1868.—Four thousand troops, with artillery, advanced to attack Bayamo, held by the Cuban insurgents. 1868.—Eight hundred volunteers landed on the south side of Cuba to join the Cubans. Ten thousand insurgents surrounded Santiago de Cuba; Manzanillo closely besieged. 1874.—The Hoosac tunnel turned over to the State of Massachusetts by the builders. 1884.—The Mackay-Bennett commercial cables opened to the public at the office of the Commercial Cable Company, New York. 1892.—General Frederick T. Dent died. 1905.—Professor Hollander, in report on Santo Domingo situation, declared United States must act at once to prevent European powers intervening.

HOW DIPHTHERIA IS CONTRACTED One often hears the expression, "My child caught a severe cold which developed into diphtheria," when the truth was that the cold had simply left the little one particularly susceptible to the wandering diphtheria germ. When Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is given, it not only cures the cold and lessens the danger of diphtheria or any other germ disease being contracted. For sale by R. H. Jordan & Co.

Gained Ten Pounds in Two Weeks



MR. J. B. COOPER.

Gained Ten Pounds in Two Weeks

Mr. J. B. Cooper of Scottsville, Ark., who wasted away from 180 pounds to 150 pounds in a few months, praises Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey for restoring his health. It required only two bottles to effect a cure and increase his weight 10 pounds, according to his own statement, written June 6, 1906, which follows:

"During my seventeen years as a salesman of general merchandise I have lost about six months' time only until recently, when I contracted a severe attack of bronchitis which made me feel as though I had consumption. "I had been bothered with a slight cough for eight or nine months. I lost in weight, from 180 to 150 pounds. My doctor recommended Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey as the best cure for consumption, so I decided to try it, and after using two bottles sweetened with rock candy, I gained ten pounds in two weeks. "It certainly does all the doctor told me it would do, and is the most effective tonic and stimulant I have ever taken. The doctor had me order some of it for his patients, so you can see what he thinks of it. Respectfully yours, J. B. COOPER.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey

is an absolutely pure, gentle and invigorating stimulant and tonic, it builds up the nerve tissues, tones up the heart, gives power to the brain, strength and elasticity to the muscles and richness to the blood. It brings into action all the vital forces, it makes digestion perfect and enables you to get from the food you eat the nourishment it contains. It is invaluable for overworked men, delicate women and sickly children. It strengthens the system, is a promoter of good health and longevity makes the old young and keeps the young strong. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is a form of food already digested, it contains no fuel oil and is the only whiskey that is recognized as a medicine. This is a guarantee.

Sold by all druggists and grocers, or direct, in sealed bottles only; never in bulk. Price \$1. Insist on the genuine, and see that the "Old Chemist" trade-mark is on the label. Beware of refilled bottles and spurious malt whiskey substitutes offered for sale by unreliable dealers. They are positively harmful and will not cure. Medical booklet and doctors advice free. Duffy Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Advertisement for Draughon's Business Colleges, featuring a steam boiler and Hackney Bros. Plumbing and Heating Contractors.

Advertisement for the Odeon Rink, located at 208 S. Tryon, with showtimes for afternoon and evening performances.

Advertisement for Y&B (Yarborough & Bellinger) featuring an illustration of a man with a donkey pulling a cart of coal, with text: "IT'S A PLEASURE TO HANDLE SUCH CLEAN COAL AS DIS" and "HURRY UP WILLIE, WE'VE GOT LOTS TO DO TO-DAY!"

Advertisement for Yarborough & Bellinger Co., featuring the slogan "Y. & B. Makes the Children Grow Makes Home Happy." and address: "Yards: 600 West Third Street."

Advertisement for Life Insurance Company of Virginia, established 1871, featuring financial statistics and the names of J. G. Walker, Pres. and H. T. Page, Supt.

Advertisement for Best Liquors at Reduced Prices, listing various liquors and their prices, with contact information for L. Lazarus in Lynchburg, Va.