

Hillsborough Recorder

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS—THE GUARDIANS OF OUR LIBERTY.

Vol. XLVI.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C., MAY 2, 1866

No. 2335.

For the Hillsborough Recorder.

A GHOSTLY ADVENTURE.

BY LUCY SNOW.

I had been invited to spend the Christmas holidays at the old-fashioned, but stately mansion of my uncle Clinton, who lived on a plantation about ten miles from madame B——'s Seminary, and three from the nearest railway station.

My bosom friend and first cousin, Josephine Stanley, was invited also, and as I was detained at the Seminary by a slight sickness, "Josey," as we called her at school, preceded me by several days, and was the first to meet me at the door of Clinton Hall.

It was my first visit to my relatives, and my fancy had painted a dreary pile, with heavy oaken doors and rambling passages, and the usual accompaniments of "haunted chambers" and whatever else my romantic and vivid imagination could picture to my curious and excited mind. Nor was I disappointed when after the hasty greeting of my uncle and his family, I followed Josephine through just such a passage as my fancy had pictured, to a small but cozy apartment in the second story, and entirely remote from the part of the building occupied by the family.

"I am so glad that you have come, Lou," was Josey's exclamation as soon as we were alone; "I selected this room on account of the fine view from the windows, but our maid Kitty has been giving me the horrors with her frightful tales of ghosts and 'haunts,' as she calls them, and if you had not come to share it with me, I had made up my mind to ask aunt Mary to let me take another room, nearer the family."

"Oh, this is delightful, Josey," I exclaimed, "you know I always had a fancy for such things, and perhaps I may be gratified at last by the sight of a ghost."

"Well, every one to his notion, but excuse me from an introduction to your ghostly friends," said Josey, as after a hasty toilet we descended the long staircase and entered the hall leading to the family sitting room.

"Tea" had just been announced; and as we took our places at the table, my uncle remarked that we "should eat heartily, and dance merrily to-night, to scare off the hobgoblins, as it was just the kind of weather to bring out such dismal creatures." It was cold and cloudy; and the wind whistled mournfully through the tall cedars and stately poplars that surrounded the mansion. But there were merry hearts within; and as one after another of the youthful neighbors entered the cheerful parlor, the sighing of the wind was soon lost in the more joyous tones of the piano, and the old oaken floors shook under the merry feet of the dancers.

It was twelve o'clock before my weary limbs began to remind me that I had travelled ten miles that afternoon, and that I was not as strong either as I had been a week ago; and I was not unwilling to obey my uncle's peremptory order to "go to bed, and save ourselves for another frolic."

So away we went, Josey and I, to our little room up the lonely winding stairs; and in twenty minutes after our exit from the parlor, Josey was fast asleep—to my great annoyance, as being unusually excited myself, I was very wide awake, and would have much preferred a lively chat over the events of the day. But Josey would sleep, and as there was no waking her, I proceeded silently and deliberately to prepare for bed.

I was just unlacing my last gaiter, when the waning light of the candle suddenly flickered for a moment, and then disappeared in the socket, leaving me with only the dim and uncertain light of a few fading embers, the bright fire that Kitty had made for us, having burnt out while we were dancing.

I am not naturally timid, nor much inclined to superstition, but I could not resist a feeling of dread and loneliness, that led me to move involuntarily toward my sleeping friend. My shoe string had become tangled into a knot, and with nervous fingers I tried to untie it, while my excit-

ed imagination began to conjure up all manner of frightful visions. I thought I heard a footstep on the stairs—then a rustling near the door, and in terror I sprang as I thought toward the bed, but stumbled over a human form, and fell with my hand upon a human face! I called wildly upon Josephine to awake, but in vain, and while seeking to escape from this terror by vain efforts to reach the bed, a new and more startling dread froze the blood in my veins, and seemed for the moment, to paralyze every limb, as a wild, unnatural laugh burst forth behind me; and turning my head I saw distinctly a tall, white figure advancing toward me from the door, which I perceived was left open, as a rush of cold air filled the room and chilled me to the heart. With one frantic effort, I leaped over the prostrate form upon the floor, and rushing through the open door, fled, I knew not whither; but fell at length exhausted and swooning, at the door of a room which proved to be my uncle's.

When I recovered, I found myself lying upon the bed, surrounded by anxious faces. My uncle had fortunately not retired for the night, but hearing a noise, opened the door just in time to admit my fainting form. After satisfying himself that it was only a temporary fainting fit, he left me to the care of my aunt, and proceeded to our room to ascertain the cause of my fright.

He found Josephine rubbing her eyes and wondering "what was the matter"—Kitty was in a profound slumber on the floor at the foot of the bed, where it seems she had been all the time; but we had not discovered her presence, and it was her sleeping figure over which I had stumbled. As my uncle passed through the long passage on his return, he observed that the door at one end of it was open, and on approaching it, thought that he discerned in the darkness beyond, a retreating figure, but could see nothing distinctly, as the wind blew violently, and the rain was now falling in torrents. On the next morning, however, he determined to unravel the mystery if possible; and upon inquiry through the neighborhood, learned that one or two other houses had been visited in the same manner, and the "ghost" proved to be a poor maniac girl who had made her escape from a neighboring asylum, and who was subsequently captured and returned in safety.

This was my first and last adventure with a "ghost," and I can say with Josey, that I never wish to make the acquaintance of another.

Address of President Johnson—Serenade by Soldiers and Sailors.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—At 6 o'clock this evening a procession of soldiers and sailors and such of their friends as sympathize with them in their grateful acknowledgments to the President for his order lately issued, directing the heads of the departments to give preference in appointments and promotions to the subordinate offices to persons who have rendered honorable service in the army and navy, was formed and marched to the Executive mansion, with the Marine Band, to serenade President Johnson, who signified to the committee that he would accept the compliment.

A very large number of persons of both sexes were previously on the ground awaiting the demonstration. At a quarter past 6 o'clock the band performed several patriotic airs, when the President made his appearance and was greeted with huzzas by the assembled thousands. He was addressed on behalf of the soldiers and sailors by one of their number in highly complimentary terms.

President Johnson said: It is not affection in me to say that language is inadequate to convey the feelings produced by your presence here, and by the presentation of your sentiments as expressed by your representative in his address, and in the resolutions which you have thought proper to adopt. I confess that, in the peculiar posture of public affairs, your presence and address give encouragement and confidence to me in my efforts to discharge

the duties incumbent upon me as Chief Magistrate of the Republic. And in what I have to say, I shall address you in the character of citizens, soldiers and sailors.

We are to-day involved in one of the most critical and trying struggles that have occurred since this Government was spoken into existence. Nations; like individuals, have a beginning, must have a birth. In struggling into existence a nation passes through its first trying ordeal.

The next ordeal which a nation has to pass is when it is called upon to give evidence that it has strength, capacity and power to maintain itself among the nations of the earth. In giving such evidence we passed through the war of 1812 and through the war with Mexico. This was our second ordeal. But a nation has another test still to undergo, and that is to give evidence to the nations of the earth and to its own citizens that it has power to resist internal foes—that it has strength enough to put down treason within its own borders. We have commenced that ordeal, and I trust in God we will pass through it successfully. [Cheers.]

I feel complimented by the allusion of your representative to the fact that I stood in the Senate in 1860 and 1861, when the nation was entering on this third ordeal, and raised my voice and hand against treason, and traitors at home. I stand here to-day, holding to and maintaining the same principles which I then enunciated. [Cheers.] I stand here to-day opposing traitors and treason, whether they be in the South or in the North. [Loud cheers.] I stand here to-day, as I then stood, using all my powers, mental and physical, to preserve this nation in passing through the third phase of its existence.

The organized forces and combined powers that recently stood arrayed against us are disbanded and drawn from the field, but it does not follow that there are still no enemies against our present form of Government and our free institutions. [Applause.]

I then stood in the Senate of the United States denying the doctrine of separation and secession. I denied then, as I deny now, that any State has the right of its own will to separate itself from the other States, and thereby to destroy the Union and break up the Government, and I think I have given some evidence that I have been sincere and in earnest.

While I was thus exposed personally and publicly, and in every way, some of my present traducers and calumniators were far removed from the war and were enjoying ease and comfort. [Cheers and laughter.] But I care not for them. I care not that slander, the foul whelp of sin, has been turned loose against me. I care not for all that, and let me tell you here to-day, that although pretty well advanced in life, I feel that I shall live long enough to live down the whole pack of traducers and slanderers. [Applause.] They have turned the whole pack loose to lower me in your estimation. [Voices—"They can't do it."] Tray, Bianch, and Seet-heart, little dogs and all, come along snapping and snarling at my heels, but I heed them not. [Cheers.]

The American people, citizens, soldiers and sailors know, that from my advent into public life to the present moment, I have always stood unyielding and unwavering by the advocates and defenders of their rights and interests. [Cheers.]

We are now in the nation's third ordeal. We are not yet through it. We said that States could not go out of the Union. We denied the doctrine of secession, and we have demonstrated that we were right. We demonstrated by the strong arm. What followed? The Confederate armies were dispersed and disbanded, and there was a willingness on the part of the people of those States to come back, be obedient to the laws, and acknowledge the supremacy of the Constitution of our fathers.

The rebellion has been put down, and for what? Was it to destroy the States? [Cries, "never."] For what have all these lives been sacrificed and all this treasure expended? Was it for the purpose of destroying the States? No! it was for the

purpose of preserving the States in the Union of our fathers. [Cheers.] It was for that I toiled. Not to break the Government, but to put down the rebellion and preserve the Union of the States. When the rebellion in Massachusetts was put down, did that put Massachusetts out of the Union and destroy the State? And when the rebellion in Pennsylvania was put down, did that destroy the State and put it out of the Union? So when the recent great rebellion was put down, and the Constitution and laws of the country restored, the States engaged in it stood as part of the Union. The rebellion being crushed, the laws being restored, the Constitution being acknowledged, those States stand in the Union, constituting a part of the glorious and bright galaxy of States. [Loud cheers.]

In passing through this ordeal what has been done? In Tennessee, under the direction of my lamented predecessor, we commenced the work of restoration. We had succeeded before I came here in restoring the relations which had existed between Tennessee and the rest of the Union, with one exception, and that was the relation of representation. I came to Washington, and under extraordinary circumstances succeeded to the Presidential chair. I then proceeded, as I had done in my own State, under the direction of the Government, to restore the other States, and how did we begin?

We find that the people had no courts, and we said to the Judges, the District Attorneys, and Marshals, "go down and hold your courts. The people need the tribunals of justice to be opened."

The courts were opened. What else? We looked out and saw the people there had no mails. They had been interrupted and cut off by the operations of the rebellion. We said to the Postmaster General "let the people have mail communication, and let them begin again to understand what we all feel and think; that we are one people." We looked out again and saw there was a blockade—that the custom houses were all closed. We said: "Open the doors of the custom houses and remove the blockade. Let trade, commerce and the pursuits of peace be restored," and it was done. We thus traveled on step by step, opening up custom houses, appointing collectors, establishing mail facilities and restoring all the relations that had been interrupted by the rebellion. Has there been anything undertaken to be done here that was not authorized by the Constitution.

What remained to be done? One other thing remained to demonstrate to the civilized and pagan world that we had passed successfully through the third ordeal of our national existence and proved that our Government was perpetual. A great principle was to be restored, which was established in our Revolution, when our fathers were contending against the power of Great Britain. What was their complaint? They complained of taxation without representation. [Cheers.] One of the great principles laid down by our fathers and which fired their hearts, was that there should be no taxation without representation.

How then does the matter stand? Who has been usurping power? Who has been defeating the operation of the Constitution, and what now remains to be done to complete the restoration of these States to all their former relations under the Federal Government, and to finish the great ordeal through which we have been passing? It is to admit representation. [Cheers.] And when we say admitting representation what do we mean? We mean representation, in the constitutional and law-abiding sense, as was intended at the beginning of the Government.

And where does that power lie? The Constitution declares, in express terms, that each House, the Senate and House of Representatives, each acting for itself, shall be the judge of the returns of election and qualification of its own members. It is for each House to settle that question under the Constitution, and under the solemn sanction of an oath, and can we believe that either House would admit any member in-