

Ghosts Around

By M. QUAD

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Old Peter Baines had lived alone on the outskirts of Taylorsville for a dozen years, attracting no attention. Then some villager saw a ghost. Peter asked the full particulars and was thenceforth considered a believer in ghosts.

Next he inherited \$15,000; then his neighbors began to pay him marked attention.

Miss Nancy Beebe, an old maid of nearly forty, had never married because she was homely and had no money. Miss Prudence Higgins was in the same fix. The widow Henderson could marry again if she had a couple of thousand; so could the widow Drew. Mrs. John White was a married woman, but while her husband was a carpenter she had aristocratic tastes and couldn't carry them out for the want of money.

These five women not only heard that old Peter believed in ghosts, but each one arranged her program to have a ghost pay him a midnight visit. He hadn't got his money yet when one night at the most solemn hour and while he was sleeping with his window open a scratching on the wall awoke him to ask what was wanted. It was the first night he had ever been disturbed.

"Peter," said a hollow voice that started the sweat on him. "Nancy Beebe is very unhappy."

"Is that so?" he replied.

"Yes, and it rests with you to make her happy. I am the ghost of her dead mother. I charge you to give her the sum of \$2,000 as soon as you get your money. She will marry, and she will bless you. Fail not, Peter—fail not—lest the smallpox comes to you!"

"She shall have it," replied Peter as he looked out of the window and saw an object in white gliding away. On the next night he was wide awake, but lying on his bed, when a second ghost paid him a visit. He had figured that there was more than one ghost in the world and that there might be another caller. He heard a soft rustling, a cold breeze blew in at the window, and a scary voice announced:

"Peter Baines, do good with your money or you will be found dead. Prudence Higgins is a sad, sad girl. She may commit suicide. If she does you will be to blame for it. You can save her life and make her happy by giving her \$2,000. Do it, Peter, and live to be a hundred years old."

"Yes, I'll do it. I want to live to be a hundred. What ghost are you?"

"Her grandmother's."

And another white object floated over the grass and through a gap in the fence and was swallowed up in the gloom of night. Some men would have gone around telling what they had seen, but old Peter kept a still tongue and prepared himself for other visits from other ghosts. Where there were two there must be three, the same as crows. He reasoned correctly. On the third night a third ghost appeared. She was being waited for, and old Peter was not so badly scared when a voice reached his ear, saying:

"Peter, grim death is all around you! It flies on wings and stalks on legs. It looks for a victim. It stands at your gate and stares at your house."

"But tell it to pass on," replied Peter. "I want to live to be a hundred years old."

"Then do as I tell you. You know the widow Drew. Make her happy. Give her a chance. When you get your money give her \$1,000. It is little to you, but much to her."

"Wouldn't a hundred do?" asked old Peter as he began to feel stung.

"Shall I beckon to death to come and enter this window?" menaced the ghost.

"No, no, no! The widdler shall have her thousand. I didn't know but a hundred would do, but I see it won't. Whose ghost are you?"

"That of a gypsy woman who was murdered. Beware of my anger. Do not play me false. I go—I go—I go!"

And she "good." She seemed to get hung for a moment in the gap, and the old man thought he heard the ripping of cloth, but she got clear and disappeared before he was sure. He didn't want any more ghosts in his. He had seen three and promised \$5,000 out of his legacy. The pace was too hot. Next night he shut and nailed down the window, but it was in vain. The fourth ghost came and announced that he must provide for the widow Henderson or prepare to be haunted all the rest of his life by evil spirits. He hung off for a few minutes, but the sighs and groans and scratchings on the glass were too much for him. The widow Henderson was to receive \$1,500 in cash.

On the next night old Peter took some bedding and lay down under the currant bushes, where no fifth ghost could find him. He kept wide awake and alert. At midnight he saw ghost No. 5 appear. She glided for his bedroom window. She was just about to appeal to him when four other ghosts showed up. The five stood and

looked at each other for a moment. Then human voices were heard calling names. Then human hands and feet moved, and the five ghosts were clawing and scratching and mixing things up, and when the scrap was over old Peter turned out of his nest and found five badly torn and muddled bed sheets lying on the grass, along with combs, hairpins and other things. None ever came back, and he saved his cash.

Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

BOON COMPANION.

I LIKE to meet the man who laughs. Until he throws a fit. To work my ancient jokes on him. And see his fat sides split. I gladly buy him a cigar—indeed, would make it two—To one who very kindly stands. And waits to hear me through.

I'm not afraid when he is near. The jest time tried to spring. Because I know that on the air. His merry laugh will ring. The ones that from the ark came forth. He seems to like the best. Although he will consent to laugh. At some more modern jest.

What do I care though kindness prompts. His laugh, and that alone? It pleases me as well as though. He cracked his funny bone. I take for granted that my yarn. At last has made a hit; That I am in his eyes at least. A most amusing wit.

There is a hint concealed in this. Though any one may wrest. The secret from its hiding place. And give the thing a test. The way to be regarded as. The regular little gem. Is not to make the jokes, but be. The one who laughs at them.

Reference.

"So he finally won her."
"Yes."
"I hear he had a hard time of it."
"It seemed that way. She was inclined to be doubtful."
"How did he manage it."
"Got an affidavit from his former wife."

Johnny's Reason.

"I am not going to school today."
"Why not, Johnny?"
"I don't feel well."
"Where do you feel bad?"
"I have such a stomach ache in my ear!"

Market Quotations.

SUGAR—Cash Price—Sugar, \$4.75; beet sugar \$6.55.
VEGETABLES—New dry onions, 5c; fresh peas 10c; rhubarb 3c; head lettuce 10c; radishes, 3 bunches for 10c; green onions, 3 bunches for 10c; tomatoes 15c lb; new potatoes, 10 for 25c; cabbage 1c lb; green corn, 25c doz. String beans 10c lb.
FRUIT—Oranges, 50c per dozen; lemons, 45c per dozen; bananas, 40c per doz; blackberries, 2 boxes for 25c water-melons 2 1-2c lb; cantalope 10 & 15c lb; peaches, 10c lb; plums, 10c lb.
MEATS—Hogs, live weight, well finished, \$9 cwt; cows, 3 1-2 to 4c; 2 to 3 1-2; veal 4 to 4 1-2; mutton 3 to 4; chickens 13c; fries, 20c.
Portland Markets
BUTTER—Extra Creamery, 35@35 1-2; store 22 1-2@24 1-2.
BUTTER FAT—Deliver f. o. b. at Portland as cream 32 1-2; sour 30.
EGGS—Local, candied, 2c @ 27c.
POULTRY—Mx. chickens 16@16 1-2; 7c; fancy, 17 1-2 cents; turkeys alive, 20 & 21; pigeons squabs, \$2.50; dressed chickens, 1 to 2c higher than alive.
BARLEY—Producers price, \$19.10; Feed, \$23; rolled, \$25; brewing, \$24.
WHEAT—Nominal—track, club, \$7@88; bluestem 95@96; Willamette Valley 97.
MILLSTUFFS—Selling price—Bran 21 1-2; middlings 30; shorts 22 1-2; chop 19@25.
FLOUR—Old crop patents, \$5.35



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