

ADAM HIMSELF SPEAKING.

"I made up my mind," said the reporter, "that if the ghost ever appeared in my bedroom again I would overcome my fears and speak to it, instead of burying my head under the covers, as I did the first time. Well, sir, sure enough, the next night, exactly at eleven, I heard a faint noise by the bed, and I looked around. There sat the specter in a chair. I sat right up and said, with some firmness, although my voice trembled: 'Who are you?'"

"I am nobody in particular now," said the ghost, "but I was Adam." "Adam who?" "Had no family name. There was but one family of us, and they all knew me. I was the first man, you know. You must have heard of me."

"Yes, indeed," said the reporter, "I'm sorry I can't shake hands," said the ghost, "but you might as well try to shake hands with a fog bank as with me. It's not sociable, I know, but I can't help it."

"Oh, never mind," said the reporter, "I'm glad to see you all the same." "Your name is Johnson, ain't it?" asked the specter. "No, my name is Jackson," replied the reporter.

"Pshaw!" said the ghost, "I was looking for a man named Johnson; but my eyesight is so bad that I couldn't read your dooprate distinctly. The worst of it is, I can't wear spectacles; nothing is substantial enough to hitch them to. I wish some of you people would invent an eyeglass that can be worn by near-sighted ghosts. You would confer genuine beneficence on the folks in the other world."

"What was your business with Johnson? Perhaps I can—"

"Well, in the first place, I understood that he is one of a committee appointed to get up a statue of me for the city of Elmira. I have been in to see that statue, and I want to ask Johnson where he got the idea that I used to wear a straw hat and side whiskers. I want to know, also, what authority he has for giving me a Roman nose."

"Hadn't you one of that kind?" "Why, man, the Romans hadn't introduced that variety of nose in my time! And Johnson has had me represented with a huge serpent lying at my feet. Now, what was the use of bringing up painful reminiscences of that kind? Why not let the matter drop? Hanged if I like it!"

"It's an outrage!" said the specter, "locking his misty fingers over his knee, 'I don't think much of the statue business, anyhow. Do you know what they did? Too stinky to make a fresh piece of sculpture out of a piece of marble, they bought up a second-hand statue of Benjamin Franklin at auction, and hired a man to work it over into me. Doesn't look a particle like me! And, anyhow, Franklin was no kind of a man to make me out of. Greenbacker or something, wasn't he?"

"We consider him quite respectable?" "Another thing I want with Johnson is to see if I can't make arrangements with some reliable spiritualistic medium. I have been crowded out in the cold for about 4,000 years, and no chance to participate in anything. Now, I am the man that started this world. I gave it a send-off, and it really does seem hard that I can't even express my views in a newspaper, or defend myself from this calumny, just because I happened to be dead; now, doesn't it?"

"Very hard, but we didn't think you took any interest in such things." "Certainly. I often feel as though I'd like to express an opinion about the tariff, or the elections, or the buzzard dollar, or popular education, or something of that kind; and then, of course, Eve wants to hear everything about the fashions. I wish there was some way for a ghost to save a little money, so that I could subscribe for a fashion journal or two, just to quiet her. Do you know of anything I could get at?"

"How would it do to make an engagement at the theater to appear as the ghost of Hamlet's father or the ghost of Banquo?" "It doesn't strike me very favorably. It might be considered rather undignified in the father of the race to be languishing around among scenes, shiffters and fiddlers; besides, they shove too much light on the stage for me; I can't get into shape unless there is absolute darkness. And then, you know, I'd be exposed to insult. When we hear a cock crow we are obliged to flit. Now, suppose, right in the middle of a performance, some miserable boy should crow. Even if I knew it was a false alarm I should be so unnerved that I couldn't go on; but most likely I'd vanish as soon as I heard it just from force of habit. No, the proposition doesn't strike me. Seems unfair, though, doesn't it, that a man who owned the entire earth can't call a dollar his own?"

"If a small loan will be of any service to you, I will gladly—" said the reporter. "You're mighty kind; but here, you see, we encounter another difficulty. Where'm I going to put a dollar when I get it? I haven't a pocket about me that'll hold a cent. Young man, a ghost has no chance at all. Keep out of the business as long as you can."

The reporter said he should. "And now I really must be going. The sun rises so disgustingly early this time of the year. I think I shall go around to-morrow night and haunt Johnson, if I can find him. If you should happen to see him I wish you'd mention it to him, so as to prepare his mind. People are always scared at first with us. Perfect nonsense, too! That is all I am. Put your hand out and feel me. Don't you see? You can stir all around inside of me, just as if I wasn't there."

"Wonderful!" said the reporter, "very wonderful. I never believed in ghosts before. The oddest thing is that you, who lived so long, should take an interest in modern politics."

Which is Better—Beer or Water?

A man once said to me, "Do you believe there is more strength in a glass of water than a mug of ale?" "Stop a bit," I answered; "that is not a fair comparison. You pay five cents for your mug of ale—I get my glass of water for nothing. Besides when I drink my glass of water, I am satisfied with it; but if you drink a glass of ale, directly you must send down another to keep it company. Suppose now you get a quart and pay twelve cents for it, and I take the same amount of money, and pay six cents for steak, and two cents for bread, and two cents for potatoes, and two cents for apples, and have a glass of fresh water for nothing. Which is the better? I eat my dinner and am satisfied with it, and go back to my work and earn more money. You go back to the saloon to get more ale, to spend your money, and waste your time."

If the beer drinker will abstain long enough to get rid of the effects of his beer, he will find himself able to do much more work than when he drinks. One of the greatest champions of our day, when he is training for a contest, says there is nothing like cold water and dumb bells.

There is no greater mistake than to suppose that beer and spirits strengthen a man. They only stir him up and use up his strength. I drove twenty-four miles the other day. When I got within a mile or so of home my horse fagged. I gave him a sharp cut with my whip and he went faster, but I did not say "I've strengthened my horse!" If that's the way to strengthen him, why not let him live on whip-cord? Alcohol is a whip to him that drinks it, and he is a great fool that whips himself.

Some years ago two men took an early start and walked over to a neighboring town twenty miles away. Having done their business they walked about to see the place, and met a fellow-townsmen, who proposed to return with them, and invited them into a beer-shop for a strengthening drink. "No," said they, "we are teetotalers, and we have had our lunch." But he could not go without a priming of ale. At last they were off, and for a while they all kept even step, till after some miles the beer man began to lag behind, and, at the half-way house he must have a bracer. After three miles more he wanted another, and this time it was whisky. Finally at fifteen miles, he gave out entirely and stopped for the night, where he was laid up for a day or two; while they walked on home and the next day were fresh for business.

Oh, no, friends, all nature works on water, and we believe that God meant that man should do the same. Take the water, friends, and all the good things that go with it. God's blessing is in it.

A man out West obtained a divorce from his wife, and married again within three days after the decree was granted. An Irishman commenting on the man's action, remarked: "Bedad, he couldn't have much respect for his first wife, to be marryin' again so soon after lavin' her."

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work of Miss A. Stark an ottoman upholstered in pink satin and old gold by Miss Gertrude Galick. The upholstering work was done by Mary Galick, who learned her trade in the shop of the company. An ottoman representative "Contented Pansy," in raised embroidery by Mrs. Harry C. Bredin. Other articles of lesser importance go toward giving a finish to the magnificent display. We have this given a very brief description of the origin of the Oregon Furniture Manufacturing Company and the progress it has made during these years in order to show what enterprise and energy combined will do. It started in on a small scale and gradually expanded and added to until to-day it stands a monument of pride among the manufacturing establishments of the Pacific coast. Just such men as are at the head of this fine coast. Just such men as are at the head of this fine country on the globe would linger over with pride and satisfaction.

A backwoods preacher once elucidated as follows in connection with the parable of the virgins: "In ancient times, my beloved hearers, it was the custom, after a couple had been married, for ten virgins to go out with lighted lamps and meet 'em on the way home, five of these virgins being males and five females."

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