

The Elmsbury Ghost

It Appeared In Person to Mr. Ebenezer Pollock.

By CLARISSA MACKIE

"Going once! Going twice! Going three times and sold to Mr. Ebenezer Pollock for \$1,900!"

The auctioneer's hammer fell with a resounding thud and nearly grazed the nose of the purchaser.

"Didn't mean to damage a good customer," chuckled the man of the hammer as he pulled down the red flag above the gate and climbed into his buggy. "Come down to Lawyer Fitch's office bimby, 'Nezer, and we'll close the deal right and proper."

"Very well," said Ebenezer.

He watched the crowd of women tiptoeing out of the house and waited until the last one had passed through the gate, each with a furtive glance at the new owner. He was aware that they marveled because he had bought a ghost ridden house.

When he was alone in the shadows of the tall oaks he looked up at the house, dark and forbidding in the midst of rank grass and weeds. Whatever had been its original color, it was now faded to a dingy mustard hue, blotted with the dark green of heavy wooden shutters tightly closed.

There were years and years when the shutters had never been closed. Those were the days before old Simon Elmsbury's granddaughter had run away with the schoolteacher and had in consequence been disinherited by the old man. Simon had left the house and land and furniture to the Foreign Missionary society, and now, five years after his death, they had put it up at auction, and Ebenezer had bought it at much below its real value.

It was well known that Simon would have opposed his granddaughter's marriage to any man. He was selfish enough to wish to keep her at his side to wait upon him, for she was the only relative he had.

"Let us come and live with you, grandfather," Cornelia had pleaded with her arms around his neck. "You will like Henry better when you know him." But the obdurate old man had angrily flung her aside, and the next day the girl had been married to Henry Stone and disappeared from Melville.

After that Simon Elmsbury closed the main part of the house and lived in the east wing for ten years, and then he died without one relenting word to Cornelia. The Stones had never been heard from since their departure from Melville. Old Simon Elmsbury went to the grave unattended by any relative.

Since Simon's death gossip had it that the house was haunted. On stormy nights, the credulous said, the old piano tinkled softly behind the closed shutters, and a woman's thin, sweet voice was heard singing in low tones. Snatches of this weird music could be heard sometimes in the lull of shrieking wind or dashing rain. Some claimed that Cornelia was dead and that her sweet spirit came back to sing in the rooms of the old home, where she had spent a happy girlhood.

In spite of ghostly rumors, Ebenezer Pollock had suddenly made up his mind to give up boarding in the village hotel and occupy a home of his own. The Elmsbury place suited him. It was near his harness shop, and the east wing was just large enough to serve his simple purposes. As for the main portion of the house, he gave it over to rats and mice and mold.

He had lived in the Elmsbury place for three weeks before he heard the singing ghost. It was the 21st of September, and the equinoctial gale was shaking the old house to its very foundations. Ebenezer had gone to bed, but he could not sleep. The wind screamed down the wide chimney and whistled around the windows. From a distance came the echoing jangle of an old piano touched by timid fingers and a mere thread of melody in a woman's voice; then the rain continued its monotonous beat, and he heard the music no more.

Ebenezer Pollock was angry. He resolved to let the intruding ghost

if possible, and so the next day when a watery sun rendered the house a little less dreary he lighted a lantern and unsealed the door that led into the other side of the house.

The house was quite as dusty and forlorn as on the day he had bought it. Strangely enough, Ebenezer did not look at the little piano which stood open just as Cornelia Elmsbury had left it so many years ago. He scurried through the rooms with a half realization that some slender spirit was flitting through the rooms away from his contaminating presence.

A few weeks afterward there came another storm of wind and rain, and Ebenezer awoke from his first sleep with every muscle aching and drawing with pain. Rheumatism held him a captive. For hours he groaned dismally, conscious that the fire in his air tight stove was nearly out at a time when he needed heat. There was no ministering hand to apply hot flannels to his swollen joints and muscles or to allay his torture with soothing liniments.

It was then that the ghost came again, this time with groping fingers upon the sealed door. It knocked gently and spoke to him in faint, frightened whispers.

"Go away!" shouted Ebenezer wrathfully.

There was a silence, and presently Ebenezer's thick, grizzled hair stood almost upright on his head. Ghostly footsteps sounded in the rooms over his head and softly, tap, tap, tap, down the narrow staircase that opened into his bedroom.

The lamp beside his bed gave forth a cheering light, and Ebenezer Pollock, thoroughly frightened for the first time in his life, watched with fascinated eyes the slowly opening door at the foot of his couch.

Tall and slender and pale, she stood before him at last, her tender blue eyes filled with pitying tears. Perhaps she was forty years old, but the hair framing her delicate face made her appear much younger.

"I could not bear to hear you moaning with pain all alone. My husband used to have rheumatism before he died, and I know just what to do," she said in a low tone.

"Ma'am!" gasped Ebenezer.

He watched her slender figure as it flitted to and fro about his rooms. She mended the fire, and soon its cheering warmth brought relief to his aching limbs. She heated water and flannel cloths and applied soothing liniments with very human fingers.

When the lines of suffering had relaxed and Ebenezer's face still sought hers questioningly she sat down in a low chair and spoke somewhat sadly.

"I'm Mrs. Stone—Cornelia Elmsbury that was. I've been living here four years."

"Here—in this house? How?" demanded Ebenezer doubtfully.

"In the big back attic," said Cornelia, with a little smile. "It looks out on the tall chestnut woods, you know, and the short chimney comes out there. Grandfather left the cellar full of coal and wood. I've got it real comfortable up there, and on stormy nights I'd come down in the dark and play on my piano till you drove me away. I used to walk over to Belton on dark evenings and get all my groceries and things. It was hard work, but it was heaven to me to get home again after all I went through!" She broke into sobs.

"What made you hide? What did you do it for?" asked Ebenezer excitedly.

"My husband was poor. He died and left a little insurance money—just enough to buy my food and not enough to pay rent. My eyesight is so poor I cannot work, and so I thought I would come back here. I heard the place was shut up, and it was my own by rights. I knew I'd be driven out if any one knew I was here!"

"You poor little thing!" blurted Ebenezer pityingly. "Stay here just as long as you like!" There was a long silence after that, while the little widow cried happily before the fire. Ebenezer was thinking rapidly. "If you ever go away, ma'am," he said, with a great blush, "I'll go after you and bring you back here and"—He paused.

It happened that one day the ghost deserted the Elmsbury house, and Ebenezer kept his word and went after her—and brought her back a bride to her old home.

"That's the same way with me," replied his partner. "In fact, I think I feel best of all when I'm sound asleep."

Christian Church Notes

"The Eleventh Commandment," will be the subject next Sunday at 11 a. m. "The Standard of True Greatness," will be the evening subject. A large colored chalk picture, drawn by the pastor, will be used to illustrate some of the ideas presented.

There were two accessions to the church last Sunday—both are teachers.

Bible School at 9:45 a. m. Endeavor at 7 p. m. Mid-week service Wednesday evening. A class is to be organized for training in soul winning. E. E. Violet's ext book is to be used.

The public is most cordially invited to attend all these services.

Local Brevities

E. H. Lorence of the firm of Winegar & Lorence recently sold a complete harvester outfit to Walter Domes of McCoy. The outfit consisted of a John Deere binder and a New Way motor.

A number of the young men of the city joined hands last Saturday evening and gave a dancing party to themselves and their lady friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. V. Butler generously volunteering the use of their dancing floor. Stone's orchestra furnished the music. Something like fifteen young couples enjoyed the evening and all report a fine time. All are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Butler for their practical hospitality.

M. M. Long of Corvallis, accompanied by Ben Cooper and Chas. Whiteside were here Sunday after Lin Long who has been spending the pasu two weeks with his grandmother. M. M. Harvey returned with them for a two days visit.

Furniture delivered free from our store to your home. Moore & Walker, Home Furnishers, Independence.

Frank Miller of Newberg has been here this week helping out at the Miller store.

Cecil Beckley and two sisters, Maude and Oma, of Roseburg stopped off in Monmouth Thursday to visit their aunt, Mrs. A. J. Haley. They were enroute to Carlton and will return Saturday.

Mrs. Crofoot and little daughters Georgia and Loraine are here from Maupin to visit with her mother, Mrs. Burkhead, during summer school.

Prof. Roy Glass who had been engaged as principal of the Monmouth high school has gone back on the job, having been offered the principalship at North Bend at \$1600 per year.

C. E. Force is back in Monmouth after ten months spent in Arlington in East Oregon. Mrs. Force and their daughter are visiting at Bend with friends. Mr. Force says it looks good to see the green level stretches again after a winter among the hills. The Winter in East Oregon was a cold one with snow and ice.

Hammocks, porch and lawn furniture help make the summer comfortable. We have a large assortment. Moore & Walker, Home Furnishers, Independence.

Reports from Portland are to the effect that Mrs. John Remington who is in a hospital in that city is not improving as fast as expected.

Miss Ida Fatland has announced that she will not teach in Monmouth during the coming year, which with the vacant principalship, makes two teachers to be secured by the board of the local high school.

Old residents of Monmouth will recall Mrs. Rebecca Emmett who was a resident of the city for fifteen years but who moved to Portland about ten years ago. This lady who has since been married, died at Scappoose a week ago.

The baby daughter of E. M. Ebbert is suffering from a severe scalding on her hands and feet. She pulled a tea kettle over on herself Wednesday morning.

We have just received a large shipment of beautiful Axminster rugs. Drop in and see them. Moore & Walker, Home Furnishers, Independence.

A company of young people assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Morlan last Monday evening for musical purposes. There were two mandolins, two guitars and a piano represented and all guests present had a pleasant evening. Refreshments were served.

M. J. Kreutz of Suver was here the fore part of the week looking up the advantages and prospects of Monmouth as a place of residence.

Expert picture framing a specialty. Moore & Walker, Home Furnishers, Independence.

Messrs. Treat and Hampton represented Monmouth at the state encampment of the G. A. R. at Eugene last week.

Our Bargain Column

W. O. W.

Once to every man and woman the idea of Insurance appeals. Do you know that the Fraternal order of

WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT

offers advantages worth investigating? For specific information apply to any member of the order or to Dr. Price, who is the medical examiner. Until July 1st the medical fee will be reduced one half to applicants in groups of five.

John Moran has some good buys in houses and lots and some fine building lots for residence and desirable locations for business houses. Also acreage tracts, small farms as well as large ones.

Wood Put In

and odd jobs done by Monmouth Industrial Association. Phone Russell McClellan, Main 3703.

SALESMEN WANTED. Everywhere, to sell our complete line of nursery stock. Write for particulars. DONALD NURSERY CO., Inc. DONALD, ORE.

Fresh cow and two heifer calves for sale. K. H. Sickafouse. 42tf

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed executor of the estate of Catherine E. Stump, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County and has qualified as such.

All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby notified to present the same duly verified, together with the proper vouchers therefor, to the undersigned executor at his residence in the City of Monmouth, in said County, within six months from the date of this notice.

Dated and first published June 16th, 1916.

John B. Stump, Executor of the estate of Catherine E. Stump, deceased.

B. F. Swope, Attorney. 415

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EVANGELICAL CHURCH

F. M. FISHER, PASTOR

Sunday School, - 10.00 a. m.
Preaching Service, - 11.00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting, - 7.00 p. m.
Preaching Service, - 8.00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 7.30 p. m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

W. A. ELKINS, PASTOR.

Sunday School, - 10.00 a. m.
Preaching Service, - 11.00 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. Meeting, - 7.00 p. m.
Preaching Service, - 8.00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 7.30 p. m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

In Odd Fellows Hall

Services, - 11.00 a. m.
Subject of lesson sermon Christian Science.
Sunday School, - 10.00 a. m.
Wednesday evening meeting, 8.00 p. m.

BAPTIST CHURCH

G. A. POLLARD, PASTOR

Sunday School, - 10.00 a. m.
Preaching Service, - 11.00 a. m.
C. U. E. Meeting, - 7.00 p. m.
Preaching Service, - 8.00 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 8.00 p. m.