

EARLY HISTJORY OF CLOUD COUNTY

BY H.E. SMITH

A JEALOUS GHOST

“I succeeded with great difficulty in partially convincing him that his senses had deceived him. That the sensations caused by the paroxysm were those of a blow, and that he had added the other facts from his imagination. “Until we have another witness of the attack,” I said, “your description of it will not convince a medical man, and when we do then I think you will be convinced that I am right.” I then strengthened my argument by narrating several similar cases in which women had believed themselves to be suffering from a great fall or a railroad accident, from both of which they had escaped uninjured. Advising him to keep somebody about him continually for the next month and to relax somewhat of his business habits, I left him.”

It is necessary at this point to speak somewhat more at length of Mr. Surden’s social position and antecedents in order to better understand the remarkable occurrences which followed.

He was at this time twenty-eight years of age, and had been in business three years as a drug broker. His relatives lived in and about Lowell. He came to New York a mere lad and had worked himself up to his present position from an office boy by industry and shrewdness. His moral character was good among business men, and there is no doubt that he was looked upon by all who knew him as an honorable and upright man. His personal habits were not conspicuously irregular. He gave way at times to conviviality, but was never known to be intoxicated, and he enjoyed life as young men will, without allowing its pleasures to interfere with his health or his business.

Among the chance acquaintances formed in idle moments was a young woman called O’Grady, who was engaged in the artificial French flowers in West Washington place. She had formerly been a figurante or ballet girl, and it was said had been married by an English pugilist, who died shortly afterward.

Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
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