

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY

BY H.E. SMITH

A JEALOUS GHOST

The woman possessed a great deal of buxom Irish beauty, and attracted the attention of Surden. In appearance the broker was dark, of medium size, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds. His manners were those of a gentleman of the world, and his education was said to be good.

Dr. Morse's advice was followed, and the result showed it to be, for the time at least, beneficial.

Mr. Surden kept his boy about him as much as possible, and three weeks elapsed without any return of his trouble at the end of that time he had begun to hope that he had outgrown the liability to the attacks. On the 22nd of August he called at the house of O'Grady and spent the evening. The next morning, while employed in his office with his boy, in removing the accumulated samples from the shelves, he was knocked suddenly off the chair upon which he was standing, some six feet into the room, and fell covered with flour of sulphur, bismuth, Paris green, and argols.

A marked change now took place in the life and habits of the subject of this memoir. He neglected his business, became melancholy and taciturn, and lost flesh. He was still under the treatment of Dr. Morse, who insisted that the occurrence of the 22nd of August was another manifestation of nervous disorder, and invited the attention of two other eminent medical practitioners of it. A consultation was held on the 25th, at which were present three well-known physicians and the patient. The examination took place in the Merchants' Hotel. The conclusion arrived at was that Mr. Surden was suffering from hysteria, whose symptoms were convulsive and erratic, and that he needed change of occupation, air and scene. This decision by no means satisfied the subject. He persistently refused to believe that any disorder of the nerves could operate as a physical force outside of himself to throw him six feet. The physicians regarded this stubbornly held notion as an unfavorable symptom denoting monomania. In accordance with their advice Mr. Surden closed his office and gave himself up to amusements. He purchased a horse, spent a great deal of time riding and visiting, and was thrown more than ever into the company of the O'Grady.

Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
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