

THE BERMONDSEY GHOST.

For some days past the Grange-road, Bermondsey, has been the scene of much commotion, owing to a report, very generally circulated, that a ghost was in the habit of making its appearance nightly at the window of an uninhabited house in that neighbourhood. The dwelling in which this nocturnal visitor was declared, and believed by many, to have been seen, was a few years ago the residence of a clergyman of very eccentric habits. He lived a very retired life, and for many years preceding his death was scarcely ever seen by his neighbours. On these occasions that he exhibited himself to the public gaze, he generally placed himself in one of the windows of the first floor, dressed in a very grotesque manner, and always made a point of appearing with a huge night-cap on his head and a pipe in his mouth. In consequence of his eccentricities he was believed by many of his neighbours to be mad, although he never displayed any more symptoms of insanity than those above described. Since his decease, which took place a short time ago, the house has been shut up, and it now appears that only a few days had been suffered to elapse from the time that he was removed from his dwelling to his grave when a report prevailed that his ghost was seen in the very window he was accustomed to take his station previously to his decease. This report soon gained ground, and several persons who have lately watched the house, declare that they have seen the ghost of the old clergyman in his window, enjoying himself as he was usually in the habit of doing, with his pipe of tobacco. Several strange stories are in circulation about the Bermondsey ghost, which show, however, that it does not play half the pranks that the Cock-lane or Hammersmith ghosts played in their time: for instance, there is no rattling or noises heard from within; no huge stones flung at people's heads as they pass along, or windows smashed, or cries and lamentations heard from within the building. Although none of these vagaries have been played off by the Bermondsey ghost, yet it has been asserted by persons who have entered the house after nightfall, that they have witnessed not only the ghost of the late occupier, but also the ghosts of former landlords, and that upon one occasion they all vanished together in a blaze of fire up the chimney, without, however, putting those who witnessed the circumstance to any other inconvenience than the fright inspired in their minds by such an exit. Owing to the various rumours thus circulated on the subject, the inhabitants of the Grange-road particularly have been kept in a constant state of torment from the crowds of people who congregate there. Every night, during the last and present weeks, the road in front of the house alluded to has been blocked up by men, women, and children, many of whom remain all night on the watch in the expectation of seeing the ghost, and the clamour they make while there renders it impossible for those residing near the spot to get any rest. To such a height has this annoyance arisen, that application was made at the Station-house on Monday night for the assistance of the police to disperse the crowd, which amounted at one period of that evening to at least 2,000 persons. The whole force of the division was called into action, and it was with considerable trouble they cleared the road; so impressed were many of the spectators with the idea of seeing the ghost, many of them declaring they had come miles for the purpose of seeing it, and complaining of the hardship of being compelled to go away without having a sight of the ghost. After the crowd had dispersed, the inspector entered the house, conceiving that some person was within who did the part of the ghost, but no one was found on the premises. It is supposed the story was got up by some interested party, to prevent the letting of the house. Orders have been given to the police to strictly watch the house, and prevent the crowds in future from collecting opposite to it, and if any unfortunate wight happens to be discovered on the premises, playing the part of the ghost of the late occupier, there is a punishment awaits him which will in all probability have the effect of checking his nocturnal wanderings, and make him sick of such sport; there is a horse-pond in the neighbourhood, aousing in which would speedily bring him to his senses.

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