

THE ST. JAMES'S PARK GHOST.

It was not our intention to have said any thing more respecting this *ghost*, had we not been in some measure urged to renew the subject in our own vindication. One of our fellow-journalists, on Saturday, charged us with being "conjurers, and that, by our *magic spells*, we had *conjured up a ghost* without a head, and stationed its haunts in St. James's Park, but that it was only known to ourselves." Now, we shall satisfactorily prove, that there were grounds for our statement.

The story of the appearance of an *uncouth figure*, in St. James's Park, in the dead of the night, had occasioned much conversation amongst the Guards for some time past; and so generally was the fact believed, that, at a late hour on Saturday night, a clergyman entered the Bird Cage Walk, and patrolled it for several hours, in the hope that he might meet the figure, when, he trusted, he should detect some person, who, through wantonness, was endeavouring to alarm the neighbourhood. The whole night, however, passed away, without his being able to make any discovery. Indeed, it would appear, that the result of the trial of *Smith*, arising from the melancholy affair of the *Hammersmith ghost*, had reached the ears of the *headless woman* in the Park, and that she had, in consequence, bade adieu to her nightly visits in that quarter.

The last time, it is said, that this *phantom* was seen, was upwards of a week ago, when it was observed, about one o'clock in the morning, to walk with solemn gait, from the Cockpit door to the Canal; but whether it afterwards vanished in the air, or sunk into the water, the informant cannot say. It was not until the other day, that the old women about the Park were able to account for the *ghost's* appearance, and they now recollect, that, about sixteen years ago, a sergeant murdered his wife in the Park, by cutting off her head, and they therefore attributed the phantom's appearance to that circumstance.

The officers of the Guards did not think it worth while to investigate this tale of horror, till they had reason to believe that the story had made some impression on the minds of some of the soldiers. Accordingly, yesterday at one o'clock, the Adjutant of the Coldstream Regiment went to the orderly-room, at the Horse Guards, and sent for GEORGE JONES, of the 16th Company, for the purpose of interrogating him respecting the *ghost*, as it was said that he was one of the men who had seen it, and had been considerably affected by the sight. The man accordingly attended, and declared his readiness to make oath of the truth of what he had already stated.

The following is a copy of a declaration which he afterwards made and signed before an Officer:

"I do solemnly declare, that, whilst on guard at the Recruit House, on or about the 3d instant, about half past one o'clock in the morning, I perceived the figure of a woman, without a head, rise from the earth, at the distance of about three feet before me. I was so alarmed at the circumstance, that I had not power to speak to it, which was my wish to have done; but I distinctly observed that the figure was dressed in a red striped gown with red spots between each stripe, and that part of the dress and figure appeared to me to be enveloped in a cloud.

"In about the space of two seconds, whilst my eyes were fixed on the object, it vanished from my sight. I was perfectly sober and collected at the time, and, being in great trepidation, called to the next sentinel, who met me about half way, and to whom I communicated the strange sight I had seen.

(Signed) "GEORGE JONES,
of Lieutenant-Colonel TAYLOR's Company of
Coldstream Guards."

Westminster, Jan. 15, 1861.

To the declaration of JONES we have to add another, connected with the subject, and which is equally genuine:—

"I do hereby declare, that whilst on guard behind the Armory-house, (to the best of my recollection about three weeks ago) I heard, at twelve o'clock at night, a tremendous noise, which proceeded from the window of an uninhabited house, near to the spot where I was upon duty. At the same time, I heard a voice cry out, 'Bring me a light! bring me a light!' The last sentence was uttered in so feeble and so changeable tone of voice, that I concluded some person was ill, and consequently offered them my assistance to procure a light. I could, however, obtain no answer to my proposal, although I repeated it several times, and as often heard the voice use the same terms. I endeavoured to see the person who called out, but in vain. On a sudden the violent noise was renewed, which appeared to me to resemble sashes of windows lifted hastily up and down, but then they were moved in such quick succession, and at different parts of the house nearly at the same time, that it seemed impossible to me that one person could accomplish the whole business. I heard several of the regiment say they have heard similar noises and proceedings; but I have never heard the cause accounted for.

(Signed) "RICHARD DONKIN,
"12th Company of Coldstream Guards."

Whitehall, Jan. 15, 1861.

After furnishing the above documents, we shall hardly be again accused of having framed the account in Friday's Paper, from a circumstance which occurred ten years ago.

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