

asked by the reader of the latest "Round Robin" novel; and the author, if pressed for a reply, would undoubtedly be driven to confess, in a Silas Wegg fashion, an inability to explain exactly why *Damen* or why *Ghost*. *Damen* appears to be merely the name of the former owner of a row of buildings, and his ghost is vaguely supposed to frequent an old and unused hall in one of the upper stories. This "*Damen's Row*" supports a sort of objective relation to an interminable "*Jarndyce-and-Jarndyce*" litigation, which commences in the first chapter of the story; while on the last page we are told that "Mr. Ferrette and Miss Badger still sustain to each other their old relation of plaintiff and defendant." The name of a row of buildings liable to seizure on execution at the end of a lawsuit between the characters of a story, and a ghost which proves to be bogus, must be admitted to be a far-fetched notion for a title. As for the story, it is better than at least one of the series, but inferior, we think, to "*Homoselle*" and the others of its grade. The plot, as has been hinted, turns on the result of some litigation, and there is a good deal of law business in the story, with almost wearying details pertaining to the intricacies of pleading: as though its author might be a lawyer who by the aid of a vigorously pushed fancy has spun a thin veil of romance to cover a framework of facts gathered from the records of his office. The prominent male characters are Oliver Gould, an unheroic but not unpleasant young man; his Uncle Richard, who has been a Colonel, and is more heroic; Ferrette, a coarse and scoundrelly lawyer of the "sharp" type; and Joe Piverton, the lawyer's starved but honest clerk. Of the females, Mrs. Gould, Oliver's mother, is well-bred and lady-like; Helen Houghton is pretty but weak; Naomi, the blind girl who turns out an heiress, is mildly interesting; and V'lummy Badger, the flaccid but astute plaintiff in the suit, whose sharpness is too much for even the sharp Ferrette, comes nearest of all to being a genuine "character."

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**WHY "*Damen's Ghost*"?** might be pertinently