

A DUBLIN ANECDOTE.

A FEW years ago, a woman who rented a snug house in Dublin, alarmed the neighbourhood with a strange story of a ghost, dressed as a female in black robes, that opened the curtains of her bed, surrounded by an illumination like lightning, and with a countenance labouring under some heavy burthen, beckoned the woman to follow her.

The occupier of the house still persisted, that she was not only haunted, but threatened by the ghost; and to this she made the most solemn oaths, as well as imprecations, and accordingly took lodgings in a neighbouring street.

The story having gone abroad, hundreds were daily drawn by curiosity into the street where the haunted house was: and it becoming the subject of conversation every where, Mr. Nolan, so well known for his poetical and political abilities, took up a sporting bet, that he would suffer himself to be locked up in the house one whole night, without the company of any human being.

The following elegant stanzas will best shew the situation of his mind during the time of his vigils. Suffice it to say, he saw no ghost, though he heard a great deal of noise, and loudly threatened to shoot the first one who should approach him, whether of this world or of the other.

STANZAS,

IF from the carments of the silent dead Our long departed friends could rise anew; Why feel a horror, or conceive a dread, To see again those friends whom once we knew? Father of All! thou gav'st not to our ken, To view beyond the shades of our grave; 'Tis not the idle tales of busy men That can the mind appal.—The truly brave, Seated on Reason's adamantine throne, Can place the Soul, and fears no ills unknown.

INTERESTING ANECDOTE.

A GENTLEMAN was known by his nearest and dearest friend, his wife, never to lie down upon his pillow some years before his death, or raise his head from it in the morning, without repeating the short Hymn annexed to this anecdote; and some times he would inadvertently burst into ejaculations in company, when two or three lines of it were distinctly heard before he recollected himself; the cause at that time was unknown; but after his decease, a paper was found in his bureau to the following purport:—"You will no longer be surprised at my involuntary effusions of feeble gratitude to the Almighty which broke forth occasionally in gay company, when you

shall read, that many years since, the dread of approaching poverty, disgrace, humiliation, and desertion of friends, had brought me to the fatal resolution of putting an end to my existence. Conscious that I had brought misfortune upon a numerous family by my own imprudence, dissipation and pride, I considered my punishment as an act of justice. The destined moment arrived, already had I loaded, primed, and cocked—when, strange to relate! though I had not read a page in the Bible for years, a reflection came suddenly across my mind—"Jesus of Nazareth," said I to myself, "was a man" (for I did not believe his Divinity) "acquainted with sorrows, endured a life of poverty, was exposed to public scorn and derision, suffered pain of body and agony of mind, and had nothing to reproach himself with—yet this Reformer of the morals of mankind, his benefactor to society, this illustrious pattern of fortitude, patience, and humility, was by an unthankful world put to death; he was crucified!—but he crucified not himself!" Repeating these last words a second time with unusual energy, pride, disdain, shame and contempt, of my inability humbly to imitate this striking example of bearing afflictions manfully, produced a passionate conflict of mind, in which paroxysm I madly flung the pistol to some distance from me: to add to the affecting scene it went off, unheard but by my affectionate wife, who religiously kept the secret; her consolations restored me to temporary tranquillity, but the work of Providence was not yet completed; not a week had elapsed, and settled melancholy was again taking possession of my soul, when a letter announced the death of a distant relation, and summoned me to the reading of his will, by which he had bequeathed me sufficient not only to clear me of all incumbrances, but to enable me, with the assistance of a considerable surplus, to exert my abilities in the line of my profession, for the genteel support of my family, and even to aim at a moderate independence, which you will find I have at length acquired.

RISE O my Soul! the hour review When, aw'd by guilt and fear, Thou durst not Heaven for mercy sue, Nor hope for pity here! Dry'd are thy tears, thy griefs are fled, Dispell'd each bitter care; For Heaven itself did lend its aid, To snatch thee from despair! Then hear, O God! thy work fulfil; And from thy Mercy's throne Vouchsafe me strength to do thy will, And to resist my own. So shall my soul each power employ, Thy mercies to adore, Whilst Heaven itself proclaims with joy One rescued sinner more!

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