

The Ghostly Manifestations of Aunt Drusilla.

By ELISABETH PULLEN,
Author of "The Man from Aldone."

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SYNOPSIS.

Miss Drusilla Brockway, a maiden lady, living by her self in a village near one of the coast cities of Maine, receives a letter from her nephew and his family from Massachusetts to occupy her house and take care of her. Corinna Brockway, his daughter, is engaged to be married to Herbert Jenkinson, who lives in the city near Aunt Drusilla's, and this is an added inducement. They find Aunt Drusilla nervous and delirious. She has a room in the front part of the house where she observes and oversees everything that goes on. Corinna conceals her engagement from Aunt Drusilla, but one evening by accident prepared an extra strong cup of tea for the old lady. As she sat awake and heard Herbert kissing Corinna in the hall, she summons Corinna's mother and learns the name of Corinna's intended, and at once suspects that he is the grandson of a man with whom her father once had a quarrel. This turns out to be the case. The old lady is enraged, and threatens to hunt the couple if they marry. She dies, and the young people fit up the room for their private parlor. The father of Corinna insists that a carefully chosen photograph of Aunt Drusilla shall be kept in the room, and it is placed in its old place on the mantel-piece. Every evening Herbert comes out on the electric car to spend the evening with Corinna.

PART III.

But from the day that Aunt Drusilla's picture was restored to its old place Corinna's pleasure in the room



"What is it?" he asked her.

was subtly blighted. The next morning when she entered it, singing, with a duster in her hand, she first thought which she saw was the photograph, that lay face downward upon the floor about three feet in front of the fireplace, as if it had leaped from its station on the mantel shelf. Corinna took it up and replaced it without thought. But she felt a curious little shudder. She went on singing in her clear and pleasant voice while she dusted the books, arranged in neat radiation around the crocheted lamp mat on the table in the center of the room. All at once she saw the photograph again. Then she stood upright, totter and spring toward her, falling to the floor. A superstitious terror seized Corinna; her breath stopped and her hands became cold and moist as she stood, not daring to remove her gaze from the object of her fears. She could hear her mother beating eggs in the kitchen, her father chopping wood in the barn, the noise of the electric car that had passed the house and was speeding down the slope of the hill toward Neighbor Dunn's. These everyday sounds dissolved the spell. Corinna would not be silly; she finished her task, dusting everything conscientiously. But until she was



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toward us. I didn't want you to know about it. I thought I could keep it from you, because you always sit with your back that way. But tonight—we staid awhile talking with father and mother—and Aunt Drusilla had been mentioned. And—Herbert, I'm afraid of her! You know what she said—that she would haunt us! The blue eyes of the girl were strained with terror; there was a husky tremor in her voice.



She saw the Photograph Tetter and Spring Toward Her.

"Don't be afraid," said her lover. "That was easy for Aunt Drusilla to say—but they don't come and from the other world. She didn't have any commutation ticket when she went over the Stygian ferry that we read about."

At all events, the following morning she found the photograph upon the carpet, and there she let it remain. The strange contest of wills between herself and the uncanny piece of paste-board dispirited and wearied Corinna. Finally she put the photograph away in the table-drawer and hoped for peace. She did not wish to confide her fear to Herbert; of course, it was a fearful dread, and he would laugh at it. Neither would she let the charm of the parlor be spoiled for him as it was for her.

But one evening as she watched for Herbert's coming her father, who was adjusting a window-shade roller in her little parlor, called to her: "Corinna, where is aunt's picture?" She says the shadow of the car light down the road, but she must run to find the photograph. Her father took it in his hand.

"A pleasant likeness. Looks almost pretty," he commented. He took hold of it, studying the face. Then he heard the sound of the approaching car. "There, run along, Corinna," he bade her, good-naturedly.

And, not to mar the lovers' meeting, he remained just where he was, gazing at the picture until he judged it discreet to appear and welcome young Corinna. Then he set Aunt Drusilla in her place and went out into the entry. "Glad to see you, Herbert," he said, cordially.

eastern extremity of South America, and the Atlantic ocean on the 12th inst. These shadows forebode trouble to all upon whom they fall. South America, Africa and the islands in the Atlantic and Antarctic oceans will be set upon by fearful rations and there will be wars and fearful deeds among the savages for the next two or three years. America will be free from all these calamities during the year of 1896. Business will revive and America, "the home of the brave and the land of the free," will be the envy of all nations on earth. Mars will continue to show his authority this month and will laugh at the high wind gales, storms, tornadoes, floods and cyclones that will sweep many parts of the country like mad. In our Storm and Sign Calendar in Storms and Signs, we have set danger signals on all the days from the 10th to 15th, and from the 22d to the 25th. Terrible gales, gales unprecedented, will sweep over many sections of the Old Country and America, between the first and the middle of the month; as the gaseous matter will pass away from the sun during that time and cause blizzards that will nearly reach the equator, unless the electric currents are "grounded" by nature, then instead of hard storms, an earthquake will be the result. Strange phenomena will be seen in the heavens. A new comet that I discovered last fall can now be seen in the naked eye in the Eastern horizon in the early morning time after 5 o'clock. The position of the planets foretell the coming of an unexpected and serious political question and a religious war threat. The earth is now in sign Leo (the lion), opposed by sign Aquarius (the waterman), who will try to drown the earth if possible. If high wind gales pass over the 25th inst. A tornado will sweep the Atlantic City sometime between the 1st and 15th. A strong electric current has been running from the Northeast to the Southwest for 25 consecutive days and when the reaction sets in there will be trouble and the elements will wade of warning.

Powerful deeds among the savages will continue in the old country in the face of all protests by Christian nations. Mars and Venus will be within one degree of each other on the 9th and an epidemic of diphtheria or scarlet fever will be almost sure to follow. The earth is now in sign Leo, (the lion) opposed by sign Aquarius, (the waterman) who will try to drown the earth if possible.

The financial gale will continue to sweep over the country for a short time. Cheer up, friends, for the storm is over, then we will all be rolling in clover. The position of the planets foretell the coming of an unexpected and serious political question and a religious war threat.

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coming of an unexpected and serious political question that will affect the earth and rate. The evil forces will pass over the 12th, 13th or 14th. The evil forces of nature will soon retire and great peace, peace and happiness will be in store for America, and America only.

A strange aurora light will take place in the southern seas on the first of this month and in the northern seas on or about the 25th inst. There will be one or two beautiful sunset scenes this month for the first time since the month of November. Prepare for fearful storms or an earthquake. Watch out for high wind gales between the 10th and 15th.

Special Warning.
Special warning is hereby given to all parents to guard their children well from the evil influences that Mars will exert upon earth this month. Mars will excite the nervous system of all children, not born under the planet Mars, and many children will become almost insane through the unseen evil influences that Mars will exert. And, unless they are well watched and protected many children will have their nervous system shocked beyond all hopes of recovery.

Professor C. Coles, Editor Storms and Signs, Kingston, Pa., U. S. A., Jan. 25, 1896.

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