

THE HOUSE OF FEAR.

BY HOWARD MARKLE HOKE.

Copyright, 1896, by the Bachelor Syndicate.

PART I.

The night was an ideal one for telling stories before a flaming hearth...

Philip had accidentally found him at the village inn that afternoon...

Martin had a brother John, the worst to rove about I ever saw...

"The last day he had spent much time in, he said, was Baghdad, and he had made it his headquarters...

"John died the next night. About ten days afterward the bones came, and Martin sent for me to come over...

"He put it on the table and rolled it about as we examined it. As John had said, it was made of small squares...

"As you may all imagine, we got very much interested in this ball, but kept all we had learned about it from everyone...

"Mrs. Budthorne ran in screaming."

Martin touched a secret spring with his hands or I did with the chisel...

"We bent forward quickly and looked in to see what it held, and immediately straightened up and looked at each other simply speechless...

"This is a devil's own contrivance. Amner had been looking at it for some time before he dropped the diabolical thing on the table...

"What is in this room, Amner?" "Before I could answer Martin's hour of thought had been absorbed in the stove, sprang up with a howl, dashed for the door and began whining to get out...

"We buried it in the cellar."

As he had just come in from the barn. Their lids were stiff with fear, but they made us understand that they had become suddenly frightened without seeing anything to cause it...

"The fear left us the moment we got out on the porch and we men felt foolish and silly. I felt that we were not long deciding that Mrs. Budthorne had had nightmare and her screaming had scared us all...

"What became of the ball?" young Budthorne asked.

"Martin wanted to break it to pieces, but he said that enough had happened from merely opening the lid, without risking something worse...

"Yes, and take it home with me. Who has the key of the house?"

"I am inclined to believe it is all imagination," said the young man. "This old skull bone ball could not harm anyone, at any rate, and I want it as a curiosity."

of the landscape. Many pallings had dropped from the trees just behind the room and lighted it. He held it up before him and we peered into the shadows...

"I must confess that, as we ascended the four water-soaked steps to the rotten porch before the door my sensations were not as remote from reality as they had been when we entered the room...

After some groping we found the cellar stairway and went down the weakened steps with care. As my boots were completely absorbed in the task and thought nothing of his feat...

"We returned to the side room upstairs, where he put the ball upon the wide window sill and began to scrape off the dirt with the end of his finger..."

"I shall leave this curiosity here and come back tonight to feel this fear that escaped from it. It hope it is not all imaginary."

"Perfectly."

He placed the ball carefully in a corner, and we left the house, secure in the belief that we had returned to Philip's and told the eager waiting company of the finding of the ball...

had escaped from the sphere was strange. I had no further recollection of its purpose by Budthorne's placidity.

"I have led you to believe that I think this tale of the fear one has in this old house at night is imaginary. I want to tell you now that it is true."

"I want to experience it myself." "I answered, 'Besides, I believe I have guessed your real purpose. You are a son of the third generation, and you have a right to that such a person might accomplish.'"

"Precisely. I am glad you have guessed it. I believe that nothing but bravery will cover this feat to go back into the ball. I mean to put it on the floor with the lid open and fight it out."

Budthorne struck a match, lifted the candle from the shelf and held it in the room and lighted it. He held it up before him and we peered into the shadows...

"I should not leave you alone here." "I said, 'You are not a strong man, and no one could stand a strain like this very long.'"

"But what is to be gained?" "Nothing, perhaps. Nevertheless, I am determined to test the meaning of those Arabic words."

"I saw that I could not dissuade him. I felt my own will weaken more and more each moment and was fully convinced that I had no other resource...

"The company was sitting before the fire, and my excited remarks broke up an animated discussion. When I had told of the trial Budthorne was making Amner sprang up and exclaimed: 'He cannot live an hour in that place...'

"I came to ask Philip to go with me." "I said, 'I could not persuade him to abandon this dangerous experiment.'"

When we arrived at the porch of the house I called Budthorne, but he did not answer. I called again and again, but the silence was unbroken.

Budthorne lay upon the floor with his right hand resting limply upon the ball, and his left hand clasped his forehead.

"I walked back into the hall of the house with some nervousness. I freely confess that I was not steady on my feet, and I was groundless. Budthorne had driven out the demon of fear beyond all doubt."

"I was wholly unmoved, and he unlocked the front door with a perfectly steady hand. I followed him into the hall, closing the door behind me in his direction. In an instant both knew that Amner had been in the room, but he was utterly dark, the odor was almost nauseating, and I shrank from looking at the front door with a perfectly steady hand."

"I felt every nerve quivering with fear."

I rose and hastened to Philip's home, feeling that the story had been broken, but anxious for the brave young fellow who had accomplished that desired end.

A BANK RUN BY CHILDREN.

St. Louis Father's Scheme for Teaching His Children to Save Money.

So interested did he become that he began to agitate the plan, and one of his friends who heard of it while on the way to New York outlined the scheme to him.

Everything was immediately placed on a business basis. The boys were soon taught the ins and outs of the commercial maze so that they understood it better by far than the majority of grown people who have not a speaking acquaintance with bank accounts.

They charged on all loans five per cent, a month or any fraction thereof. If a young man wanted to take his last dollar out of the bank he could only do so by paying twenty-five per cent.

Complex Preserved DR. HEBRA'S VIOLA CREAM

VIOLA SKIN SOAP

Pennyroyal Pills

REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY

FRANCE REMEDY

SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA. Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS-CHILDREN.

Directory of Wholesale and Retail CITY AND SUBURBAN REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS HOUSES. ART STUDIO, ATHLETIC AND DAILY PAPERS, BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS, BATHS AND SHOWERS, BICYCLE REPAIRS, BOOKS AND SHOES, BROKER AND JEWELER, CANDY MANUFACTURER, CARPETS AND WALL PAPER, CARRIAGE REPAIRS, CATERER, CHINA AND GLASSWARE, CIGAR MANUFACTURER, CONFECTIONERY AND TOYS, CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER, CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE, DRY GOODS, FANCY GOODS, DRUGGISTS, ENGINEERS AND BOILERS, FINE MERCHANT TAILORING, FURNITURE, GROCERS, HARDWARE AND CUTLERY, HAT AND FUR STORES, HIGHER EDUCATION, HOTELS, JEWELRY AND OPTICIAN, LUMBER AND SHEDS, MEAT MARKET, MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING, MINE AND MILL SUPPLIES, MODISTE AND DRESSMAKER, MUSIC AND AMUSEMENT, PAINTS AND SUPPLIES, PHOTOGRAPHER, PIANO AND ORGAN, REAL ESTATE, RUBBER STAMPS, STENCILS, ETC., ROOFING, SANITARY PLUMBING, STAMPS AND TICKETS, STEREO-RELIEF DECORATIONS AND PAINTING, TEA, COFFEE AND SPICE, TRUSSERS, BATTERIES, RUBBER GOODS, UNDERTAKER AND LIVERY, UPHOLSTERER AND CARPET LAYER, WALL PAPER, ETC., WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER, WINES AND LIQUORS, WIRE AND WIRE ROPE.