The Pittsburgh Gazette.

ALMOST A GHOST STORY—A REAL INCIDENT.

BY GRACE GREENWOOD.

On a Christmas night, some fifty or sixty years ago, there were gathered about the wide fireplace of a large New England kitchen, a happy family circle, consisting of a well-to-do farmer, who was eke a magistrate—known far and wide as "Squire Percival"—his comely wife, two fair daughters, a niece, and last, but not least, a son, just home from Yale for the holidays.

The night without was seasonably cold, and brilliant with moonlight and starlight. The large stone farm-house stood on the brow of a hill behind a protecting line of tall pine trees—the only green in the wide landscape. The steep hillside and wide valley beneath were heavily blanketed with snow.

The early part of the evening had passed merrily with games, jests and song. But for an hour or two the conversation had taken a drift into the realm of the supernatural. One ghost had succeeded another till, as the "witching time of night" approached, and the fire burned low, the circle instinctively drew closer together, with thrills and shudders of strange spiritual dread, which is yet akin to the keenest pleasure—an awesome joy, an exquisite terror. The solemn soughing of winds among the pines, heard in the pauses of ghostly recitals, added its wondrous, weird effect to the theme.

Just as young John Percival had concluded a wild German legend, which he declared "splendid stuff for dreams," the outside door was heard to open suddenly. All looked around more or less fearfully, to see standing on the threshold the slight form of a fair young woman, clad all in white, and looking strangely pure, and cold, and luminous, like incarnated moonlight.

"With the glide of a spirit" she came forward. Her feet were quite bare, and her arms were drooping wearily. Masses of fair hair fell over her shoulders, but her eyes were dark and fixed with a melancholy stare. Her lips were slightly parted and almost colorless. She came into the circle about the hearth and there paused, standing utterly motionless—a beautiful, appalling figure.

For a moment all the startled group remained as silent as that strange visitor—then one young girl caught her breath in a hysterical scream, which was instantly answered by a cry from the pale lips of "the woman in white," into whose blank eyes rushed a wild, keen light. She gazed about her in terror and bewilderment, then glanced down upon herself, and sank cowering upon the floor, covering her face with her hands, and giving way to childish paroxysms of weeping.

The farmer's wife, a woman of rare sense and presence of mind, at once divined the truth.

"She is a sleep-walker!" she said. She must be half dead with the cold. Girls, bring some wrappings!"

Immediately all was bustle. The farmer and his son discreetly vanished from the scene, and the kind mother, daughters and niece devoted themselves to their bewildered charge, who still wept and sobbed under their kind ministrations, but declared that she felt no cold and no pain, though her delicate feet were actually bleeding from her long walk up the icy hillside and over the crusted snow.

After having been tenderly put to bed, however, she became sufficiently composed to reply to the few questions which had been put to her. She said she was Lucy Ellett, the niece of the village physician; that she had lately been taken from school, on account of nervousness, and sent to him for medical treatment but that homesickness and loneliness had made her worse. She had occasionally walked in her sleep before, but only about the house and grounds at home, and on summer moonlight nights. "I think the moon bewitches me," she said, smiling through her tears. That night she had, before going to bed, looked across the little valley to the pleasant house on the hill, watched the cheerful Christmas lights gleaming through the pine trees, and longed to be one of the happy party there, though she was a stranger to all.

She had cried herself to sleep, she said, and that was all she knew of her mysterious midnight tramp over snow and stones and ice. Not a memory, not a thought could she recall till the moment when she found herself standing on that hearth, in her night dress with so many wondering eyes fixed upon her.

"O, dear! what do you think of me? What *can* you think of me now?" she moaned.

"Never mind what we *think* of you, my poor child, said the good motherly Mrs. Percival, "*we love* you already, so just drink this nice ginger tea and go to sleep."

The "poor child" got a little natural sleep, and in the morning appeared somewhat less ghostly than the apparition of Christmas night. But she was still very pale, with a playfully shy, grieved look. She was suffering less than was expected from the exposure, but more from the nervous shock of the night before, and by the advice of her uncle, who had been summoned, consented to remain with her new friends for a few days.

Young John Percival was hospitably kind to the invalid guest, not seeming to perceive that she shrank from his attentions in a sensitive, disquieted way. Yet, when his eye was not on her, she was observed to study his face with a peculiar inquiring expression. She could not remember having seen that face at the fearful moment of her awakening, and she hoped she had not been a witness of that walking trance, which she regarded with absolute horror.

Finally, on the last day of her visit, finding herself alone with him for a moment, (under a desperate impulse, she asked: "Did you, too, see me that night, Mr. Percival?"

He was touched by the tremble in the voice and the wistful look in the dark eyes; but he answered honestly: "I cannot deny that I *did* see you."

"O sir! what must you have thought?"

"Thought—why I thought if ghosts would, always come in such shapes, I would n—ver fear them more."

The shy smile and rosy blush that his playful answer called forth seemed first to reveal to the young collegian the pale, sad vision of the night as a lovely walking flesh and blood reality.

I never heard of Lucy Ellett "revisiting the glimpses of the moon" as a somnambulist after this, but I heard that on another Christmas night she stood on the hearth of the old farmhouse, dressed all in white, in the midst of the same family circle, and she gazed about her, and said, "I am afraid I am walking in my sleep again," and she then put up her hands in a pretty, deprecating way, and added: "But if I am John, don't wake me!"

GENERAL NEWS.

SMALL POX rages at Atlanta, Ga.

EVEN the Jews, in Utah, are classed as Gentiles.

COAL is selling in Syracuse at from $6.95 to 7.45.

A NEW Masonic hall has been dedicated in Auburn, N. Y.

A. T. STEWART has not purchased the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

THE Water Works at Doylestown, Pa., are nearly completed.

THE receipts of the Mahoning county Fair were about $25,000.

WORK has again been resumed at the peat beds at Lake Shadals.

A LARGE breadth of wheat has been sown in Wood county, Ohio.

A CHINK of Pittsburgh beef has choked a man named Dingman, at Canton, O.

CRAWFORD, a peddler, shot six youths in Buffalo lately, who were annoying him.

DR. MARY WALKER is showing her pantaloons and military overcoat at St. Louis.

THE editor of the *Globe*, Huntingdon, Pa., gets presents of cakes from young ladies.

JOHN C. ALLEN has just completed a mile race track on his place at Yellow Springs.

THERE have been no failures among the business men of Tuskegee, Ala., since the war.

AT St. Louis, Mich., but one death has taken place in two years! What's the population?

THE practice of stealing milk from residences in Cincinnati at an early hour, is prevalent.

IMPROVEMENTS are going on at the Lafayette Cemetery, one of the earliest of Philadelphia.

A SCAMP named Ira Shidler has been arrested for picking the pocket of a blind man in Cincinnati.

A RAILROAD from Youngstown, Ohio, via Jackson and Austintown coal fields, is be "talked over" in the Cincinnati papers.

THE defeat of Packer and Pendleton removes two prominent Democratic candidates for the presidency from the next olympiad.

THE Cincinnati and Indianapolis junction railroad will be opened to Muncie, Ind., for freight and passenger business on Monday next.

SAIFF's tavern, one of the oldest landmarks of Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, is demolished to make room for a Congregational church.

THE Free Trade League have secured the services of several well known speakers to discuss the question of tariff reform throughout the country.

WALTER WILLIAMS, the boad robber, was on Tuesday last indicted, at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., by the Grand Jury. His trial commenced yesterday.

THE Rev. Theodore Cuyler, an earnest and laborious temperance reformer, takes strongg round against the formation of a temperance political party.

NO CLUE has yet been found to the murder of Walter Soper, of Esopus, though a search is going on, stimulated by the offer of a heavy reward.

O'BRIEN, a school-teacher of Washington, has been fined $5 for edifying and astonishing his scholars with a volley of profane epithets while intoxicated.

A REVOLUTION among the boot-blacks at Detroit is pending. An aristocrat of their profession from Buffalo, who dresses like a gentleman, has appeared among them.

THE Potter *Journal*, "devoted to *literature*," tells us that "the chronic itch for holding office has broken out on Andy Johnson in blotches as big as a frog's head."

MRS. F. M. BARCLAY, a product of the Southern clime, has been lecturing for the past week at Jamestown and Buffalo on the gormandizing propensities of humanity.

FATHER HYACINTHE'S arrival in the States is surmised to be with the object of consulting the American Bishops as to advocacy of his cause before the Ecumenical Council.

A BOY named Plunkett attempted to climb on the fire box of a steam engine on the way to a fire at Cleveland lately, but fell off and was killed by the hose cart following behind.

MARCHAND, a Louisville, Kentucky, scale manufacturer, is in trouble for passing and making a bucket full of undeveloped counterfeits, composed of block tin and other metal.

THE Stowe-Byron controversy has been received into the question, whether or not Lady Byron was insane. The public will be insane if the whole matter is not disposed of before long.

GEORGE M. GILL, a prominent speculator and plaintiff, in the Decatur cotton case against Good, involving several hundred thousand dollars, died at Memphis on Wednesday afternoon.

THE reports from every agricultural fair, and there are many, at this time of the year, are most encouraging. They indicate a degree of peace and prosperity which is widespread and cheering.

GEO. FRANCIS TRAIN will run Pendleton off the track. He is making speeches for him in Ohio, the great western favorite being of the opinon the "Prince of Bladderskites" will really help him.

THE way the Yankee "schoolmarms" discipline their pupils in Wisconsin, is producing some indignation, and the La Grosse papers call the attention of the School Board to the devilish measures used.

AN infatuated jury, in a case just tried in Baltimore, gave a verdict of $250 for the plaintiff, in a libel suit against the publishers of one of the newspapers there. What sort of a reputation is worth the amount?

A NEW YORK paper says: One of Mr. Greeley's strongest recommendations for the Chinese mission is his handwriting. He could no doubt add, considerably to his salary by marking tea boxes during his leisure hours.

AN exchange notices the marriage of Mr. Cooper and Miss Staves, and states the result to be barrels. An Ohio paper, commenting on this, denies the *sequitur*, maintaining that the result will be shavers, and if females it will eventuate in hoops.

JUDGE Ingram, of New York, calls the attention of the Grand Jury to the late movements in Wall street, and suggests that it may come within the province of the Jury to inquire whether such occurrences may not have been brought about by an unlawful combination, and if so it would be their duty to present such parties for trial.

GOVERNOR ASHLEY, of Montana, in an article to the Toledo *Blade*, giving the result of his observations in an extended tour through his dominions, and narrating its attractions for emigrants, says the country is peculiarly adapted to stock, and that horses, mules, &c., subsist, the year round, on nutricious grasses without shelter or care.

THE new oil regions on Bear river, W. T., are destined to become as popular as the famous Pennsylvania oil regions. A company of Pennsylvanians have been quietly at work there for some time, and pre-empted several acres of ground and laid out a town some two hundred rods from where they have been boring their wells.

THE scope of the Fifteenth Amendment has recently been the subject of discussion in the District Court of California, Judge Sawyer holding that under it the testimony of Chinamen is admissable in court. The Albany *Journal* truly remarks that "this judgment is important in behalf of the great fundamental principles of justice and humanity."

AT an industrial exhibition in Vienna a new product of art is to be seen, consisting of various articles of spun glass, such as head dresses, ribbons, bracelets, cuffs, collars, watch chains, ostrich feathers and the like. They are the product of a Parisian manufacturer. The threads are reported to be as fine as a spider's web and as strong as wool, but more beautiful in appearance. The thread may be used for knitting or sewing.

A GENTILE of Salt Lake City, who married a Mormon wife, while expressing a contempt for polygamy, announced his dislike of the "blood atonement," which he thus describes: "Well, these fellows get a grudge against a man, and they make out he's done something he can't atone for except with blood, and then some of the elders have a revelation that the man's got to get out of the way, and then go for him. 'Taint no use, then. Man's found dead, throat cut, or something of that sort, and that's the last of it. Nobody knows anything about it, and if you catch 'em at it 'taint no use—they all stand by each other."

IF ever a bridegroom thoroughly deserved his bride, Mr. Irvin D. Booth, of Elmira, is that man. He was to have been united on Tuesday last to the object of his idolatry, but a cruel freshet came and swept away his means of communication. Nothing daunted, however, he engaged a hand-car, and made the best progress he could, until that, too, failed him, when Shank's mare was brought into requisition, and, after jumping more ditches, scrambling over more fences, pursued by indignant watch dogs, and enduring more hardships than even John Van Buren did in getting back into the Democratic party subsequent to his backsliding in 1848, this Leander reached his Hero at Middletown on Thursday morning, and was then and there triumphantly united to her in the holy bonds of wedlock.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

THE most valuable discovery made at the ancient wharf of the Emporium, where, buried beneath the accumulated rubbish of more than a thousand years, is an inexhaustible stock of blocks of marble of the most costly and rare qualities. The blocks already taken out, some of which are of exceeding beauty, are valued at over $400,000; and, as the deposit of these treasures is said to extend down the left bank of the Tiber, from the Aventine to the Church of St. Paul beyond the walls, it is probable that his Holiness has there a store of almost boundless wealth. Among the masses got out recently were a great block of rose colored Oriental alabaster, another of Povonazetto, several of Giallo antico, and fifteen pieces of African marble, of which only two had been known in Rome. Thirteen pieces of the precious myrrhae, which the ancient Romans prized above all other stones, have also been discovered.

STATE ITEMS.

SOME admirers of the feathered tribe propose holding a bird fair during November at Nazareth, Pa.

ON Sunday morning last, the Fast Line West on the Pennsylvania Railroad, ran over a man by the name of George Beswick, at Penn Station, and killed him instantly.

THE Mahanoy (Schuylkill county) *Gazette* says that all the collieries in that region have suspended work, and will remain so until such time as coal will bring a remunerative price.

MR. EVAN EVANS, a chemist of Hyde Park, Pa., has after the total failure of several other parties, succeeded in removing, by chemical process, all the dead mules from the Avondale Mine.

THE Greene county Agricultural Fair, which was held at Waynesburg last week, passed off well, and was quite a success. The only incident that occurred to mar the general hilarity was the loss of the big snake from one of the side shows. It is thought that somebody stole the reptile.

AN accident occurred on the evening of Friday, October 1st, at Paxton, by which a man named Wm. Atherton received injuries from which he died on the Saturday following. Mr. Atherton was racing his horse against a railroad train on the Lehigh Valley road on an avenue parallel with the track, when at a crossing, the animal became unmanageable and ran into the train. The horse was instantly killed.

The Norristown *Herald* says: "The destruction of property by the late freshet was very great along the streams in Montgomery county. The great loss of course was along the Schuylkill. But even here things are assuming their former appearance; coal-yards are being repaired—rolling mills cleared up and put in running order—furnaces picked out and re-filled for the blast—stationary engines re-burnished and ready for the steam—and private dwellings set to rights again."

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$2 1-2c 4-4 Silk Finish Black Alpacas; great bargains; worth $7 1-2c.

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In all the Newest Patterns.

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