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BY JEANNETTE H. WALWORTH.

the lawyers at such a time."

the scent of them. Bees hummed

about the double petunias and gay

could not hear them, but she knew

The front of the Spillman cottage

was pierced by one door and two win-

dows. Miss Malvina's sewing machine

events were not moving rapidly enough

the resumed whir of the sewing ma-

"I think you might give over tuck-

ing a white petticoat when a neigh-

neighbor Rufus Broxton. It is a sorry

Miss Malvina looked penitent and put

the lid on her machine as softly as if

the sick man had been in the spare

room of the little cottage instead of in

his own stately four poster a half mile

"I meant no disrespect, mother. No-

body thinks more of Colonel Broxton

than I do or will miss him worse. It's

"Ah, ah, we'll miss him, Malvina

does he want with Horace Matthews

at such a time? Oh, if your own dear

"I guess he wants the lawyer to get

Tom's affairs well in hand. Colonel

Broxton is rich, mother, and Tom is

to arrange everything for Tom's best

interests. I guess he never once

thought, being so well and strong just

a week ago, but what he would be here

himself to look after Tom for many a

long year yet. Jessy says Mr. Mat-

thews and the colonel are just like

"Mother" Spillman jerked her trum-

pet away "rom Miss Malvina's lips

"Jessy is a gossiping simpleton

Brothers, indeed! Don't speak of them

in the same breath. I know Horace

Matthews Then, with shrill, rising

voice, "I know more about Horace

Matthews and Rufus Broxton than

Jessy could ever find out if her mother

cooked at Broxton Hall till kingdom

"I know my father prepared them

both for college," said Malvina proudly

hassock near her mother and possessed

herself of the pile of gray wool the old

lady worked up into articles of doubt-

ful beauty and undoubted inutility,

just as the whim seized her. In off

moments Miss Malvina would seize the

Confident of a flood of familiar rem-

iniscence, she settled resignedly to

backward flowing tide, she could trust

her mother to entertain herself for an

"I have known Horace Matthews

They were always together as boys,

and I marveled at it then. Rufus

was a handsome, high spirited, clean

souled lad who would have cut off his

right hand if he detected it doing a

dishonest thing. Matthews was just

everything that Rufus wasn't. I never

understood the liking Broxton had for

Malvina put in a word for the ma-

ligned. "Mr. Matthews must have been

very winning in his young days, moth-

"Oh, there's no gainsaying his good

him on the topmost round of his ambi-

tion once upon a time. He just missed

being Rufus Broxton's brother-in-law

and coming in for half of old Marsden

Broxton's estate. When Lucetta Brox-

ton came home from boarding school-

my, but she was something to look at!

-Horace Matthews did not let the

"He was a struggling young lawyer

then, waiting for his first client. She

grass grow on the road from Mande

ville to Broxton Hall.

even now."

Indefinite period of time.

needle and hasten the hour of comple-

Then quietly she seated herself on a

suppose the colonel is to

just my way to keep busy."

father was only here now!"

young-so young and helpless."

"Only 14 years old, poor lad!"

they were there, so she lost nothing.

She

Evidently

phloxes around her doorsteps.

occupied one of these.

chine querulously.

day for us."

brothers."

come.

with fierce petulance.

satisfaction.

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AN INTRODUCTION.

One would scarcely credit the flourishing and growing town of Mandeville -city by courtesy-with a well authenticated and respectably vouched for ghost story, and yet it had one-has one perhaps, one might say, for three of its oldest citizens must join the choir invisible before it becomes a matter of pure tradition.

To quote from the geography, "Mandeville is remarkable chiefly for the excellent quality of the glazed tiles and the superior cylinder stoves which it manufactures in large quantities and ships annually to all parts of the United States and Great Britain."

Mandeville does not set as much store by its ghost as it does by its tiles and stoves, which it advertises with laudable liberality, but should any stranger chance to express his views on the subject of the finest old mansion in its suburbs, Broxton Hall, in the hearing of Uncle Bennie Braddock, as half the town calls him, he will be very apt to hear something that will astonish him, coming, as it does, from such very respectable lips, in an atmosphere from which one looks for nothing but trade and market quotations.

Uncle Bennie has reached the reminiscent age, and he always seizes with avidity upon the chance to describe "the most remarkable experience of my life, sir."

If his listener happens to be a skeptic who has nothing but a veiled sneer for the Broxton ghost, Uncle Bennie will refer him to "Major Dan Mercer, sir (1 guess nobody ever cast discredit on a statement of his), or Simon, who was care taker at the Hall after Colonel Rufus Broxton died. They saw what I saw, and I take it that three more unimaginative men can't be picked up in all Melton county."

And so, whether you believe it or not, stranger, it will be well to comport yourself respectfully toward the Broxton ghost so long as you are in the neighborhood of Major Dan Mercer.

The people who live in the handsome old house itself are not such old world aristocrats as to consider a ghost good form in shape of family indorsement. Whatever they may know or think about this elusive member of their fine old family they keep strictly to

Whether or not the Mandeville ghost story is worth relating or listening to each reader of the following pages must determine for himself.

CHAPTER I. THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

When Miss Malvina Spillman, who lived midway between the small town of Mandeville and the large estate of Broxton Hall, saw Dr. Govan for the second time that day drive rapidly up the avenue of laurel trees that stretched from the big outer gates to the very doorstep of the Broxton house, she lifted up her voice:

"I think Colonel Broxton must be worse, mother. Dr. Govan's gone by again.'

'Me, me, my, my!"

"That makes twice since breakfast, and he does not often drive that old sorrel of his fast enough to lather him. He is doing it now, though." "Twice, Malvina? Me, me! And

that poor motherless boy off at school the Lord only knows how many miles!" "I think Thomas has been sent for. mother. When I was up to ask about the colonel yesterday. Jessy told me he

"But maybe he won't get here in time. Go back to the window, Malvina.

Something else might happen." Miss Malvina's mother was getting old and had got deaf. Just now she was pinned to her armchair with a sprained ankle. To use her own pathos, she was nothing like the woman she used to be.

Sometimes Miss Malvina could project a bit of gossip across the room without having to leave her sewing machine or ironing board. It depended largely on the state of the atmosphere As a rule, she had to filter it carefully through the perforated ear trumpet that was swung by a black ribbon about her mother's neck.

The wheel of Miss Malvina's sewing machine filled the little cottage with its pleasant whir for a few moments of renewed activity. Then something else did happen, and she bustled across the room once more to report it. Her moth er held the trumpet in a state of eager

"And Daniel has just gone galloping by on the colonel's black mare, moth-

"Which way?"

"Toward town. He'll just kill that mare, and the colonel loves her next

"You say he's on the black mare Winnie? Why, Broxton never would have let Daniel or any other man get astride that brute if he had his senses about him." "Mother" Spillman shook her white head dolorously and added: "Gone after Horace Matthews, I suppose. Broxton had better be sending for the minister, if he is but a poor was the handsomest girl in the country

be married. Before she had been home a whole year she was dead of pleurisy. contracted by going to a come out party at Butterworths', ten miles from Broxton, wearing her ball dress and slippers in the carriage."

As Miss Malvina had not come to woman's estate without achieving perfect familiarity with the melancholy fate of beautiful Lucetta Broxton, she



"Now they are neck and neck." did not intermit the motion of her needle to exclaim or bemoan over the

threadbare story. "Horace Matthews was married in less than two years after to a girl who had expectations that were never realized, and Rufus was married a month later. Both of them lost their wives about six years later within a month of each other. Queer, wasn't it?"

for the older woman. She interrupted Miss Malvina yawned and said 'Very." The hoos hummed in the honeysuckle vines, the crocuet deedle wove its rapid way in and out of the gay web and the old woman crooned. bor's soul is passing, Malvina, and that

"I won't deny you that Matthews is the sharper of the two, but Rufus Broxton has got more soul in his little finger than Horace Matthews has in his whole body. Rufus was as brave as a lion, but sweet tempered as a girl, trusting as a baby, always. Honorable? I should say he was. I don't suppose he ever played crooked for the finest white alley that was ever made. I doubt if Horace Matthews could claim as much for himself."

"And Tom's going to grow up to be just such another," said Miss Malvina. You'll miss him, I'll miss him, and all with conviction. Mandeville will miss him. But what

Into the peaceful droning of the bees and the monotonous crooning of the deaf woman was precipitated the sound of iron shod hoofs pounding the earth rapidly. Miss Malvina dropped the gay wools recklessly and, with the ball unwinding as she traveled, rushed to the front door, craning her thin neck | end. after the fast disappearing borseman.

"It's Daniel, mother, galloping back to the Hall. The mare's flanks are judgment of the man who for sterling thought of the poor boy then wrestling fairly reeking with sweat and foam. And-yes, he'll catch up. Now they are neck and neck."

"Who is neck and neck with what. Malvina?" Miss Malvina drew her head in re-

luctantly and returned to the trumpet. Neck to neck with mare Winnie, Lawyer Matthew's big roan had dashed out of sight. The two horses knew each other well. Many a peaceful excursion had they taken side by side through the lovely country roads engirdling Mandeville or over the broad expanse of the Broxton estate. half of which destiny had maliciously snatched from the grasp of the roan's

In the westering light the lawyer's face looked hard and white and set. The wind had lifted the front brim of his soft felt hat and flattened it against ness! It came. the crown. Scarcely had the cloud of before the Mandeville public hack went lumbering by in a vain competition of speed. Its curtains flapped wildly in the wind, leaving its one occupant in full view.

At sight of him Miss Malvina caught her breath hysterically and bent her head with an impulse of prayer. Then crocheting. It was her way to keep she retraced her steps to the deaf wobusy. Once fairly launched on the

man. "Daniel's ridden back, mother, and Mr. Matthews was with him."

"Trust him," said the old woman sourly. "He'll make a good thing of and Rufus Broxton since they were it. Rufus so trusting and Tom so both boys in knickerbockers and roundyoung and him already feeling like he'd abouts coming to Mr Spillman for been cheated by Lucetta Broxton's Latin and mathematics. That was be taking off." fore you ever saw the light. Malvina.

in the community. Everybody has a the best father to that pretty Ollie I ever saw.

"Oh, he'll look out for his own. Olivin is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. I hope she ain't spirit of his spirit. The old woman was inexorable. Pres

ently Miss Malvina sent a still more solemn announcement through the er. He's got such friendly manners and he is so dreadfully good looking trumpet "And, mother, Jim Hobson's just driven by with both horses to the hack looks. They came pretty near landing

and Parson Drayton on the back seat." "May the Lord have mercy on his soul! Amen." This pious ejaculation lacked explicitness, but as Hobson's soul was a mat

ter of no particular moment to any one and the Rev. Mr. Drayton's was alpossibility of miscarriage Miss Malvina fitted it where it belonged.

"I hope Tom will get here before it is all over," she said softly.

But her mother's head had fallen forward on her clasped and trembling Tom!"

and the richest. Before she had been hands. Tears came warily to eyes long home a half year they were engaged to used to the vexing ways of the world. through the prim little border of zin The minister's widow wept silently for the breaking of another link in the toed softly into the room where she chain that time had robbed of all but had left her mother peacefully sluma few frail links.

> which Mandeville nestled. The many windows of Broxton Hall caught its It was impossible to settle to any orof molten gold. The great house looked as if it were illuminated for the coming of some distinguished guest.

The shadows of evening already lay thick among the dark oaks and cedars on the lawn. A funereal blackness enwrapped a cluster of Norway firs. Presently the borrowed brightness faded from the windows of the Hall, leaving its somber bulk sharply outlined against the pallid skies.

ed from tears to slumber. Propping the gray head tenderly against its silken chair rest, Miss Malvina softly escaped from the room. She was in a state of restless, nervous tension. She wandered as far as the cottage

gate, pulling a gaudy zinnia and a gay brute snort and squat. princess feather in transit, only to throw them away. She leaned over the low gate and peered anxiously down the dusty road.

Over an hour now since the minister and the lawyer had gone by in such he dead, Mr. Matthews?" haste and "still no sign of poor Tom's coming.' Colonel Rufus Broxton was the "big"

man of the neighborhood. His sudden illness had aroused great local interest. Personally she had none other than the tenderest memories in connection with him. The gift of a cow over the bluff and been killed, the beadstone that marked her father's grave in the Mandeville burying ground, the annual spring "breaking up" of her little garden patch, all testified to the goodness of the colonel's heart and the faithfulness of his soul.

He had never lost sight of the fact that her mother was the impoverished widow of the man who had been the intellectual guide of his callow youth nor how as the minister's wife she had been a helpful friend and good adviser to the young and sometimes frivolous tell her all that had happened since wife he had brought home to stately cld Broxton Hall.

The boy will be too late. Keep me here, doctor, until Tom gets home."

housemaid at the Hall and heard herself sternly to task. everything. If only the boy had been sent for sooner! Mr. Matthews must to get ruffled about at such a time, have known how things were going to when there was poor Tom and his

And at thought of the lawyer she fell to wondering over her mother's harsh an easy task for Miss Malvina, in nierit stood next to Parson Drayton in alone with the fierce agony of his first the town and county. There were those in Mandeville who thought the sun rose and set in him. Her mother must be getting unreasonable in her old age, and so, dismissing the lawyer from her mind as a minor matter at such a solemn juncture, she stood there breathing futile wishes that she might do something, ever so little a semething, for the colonel or for Tom.

Mandeville was light and uncertain. There was none at all tonight.

The scent of honeysuckles and sweet williams weighted the air. A single star came out in the blue black sky, another, a dozen, a host. A solenin hush enwrapped the universe. If only some break would come in the dreadful still-

The patter of hurrying feet in the dust raised by the two horses subsided dusty road-a small, dark figure was speeding toward her out of the gloom. It came abreast of her. Miss Malvina could hear the quick panting breath of the runner. Next the gleam of a tution to authorize and empower the white face, bare of hat, shone under the stars.

"Who is that? Who are you? Tom -Tom Broxton?

The running feet halted. The white face came closer. A breathless young voice called to her eagerly: "Is that you, Miss Malvina? How about father? Better, isn't be?"

Miss Malvina answered inconsequently:

"What are you doing afoot, child? Couldn't Daniel have gone to fetch

"Mr. Matthews' man Rube was at good word for him, except you. He is buggy in a lime hole this side the any failure so to do. schoolhouse. I left him floundering about in it. I could not wait. Is father"-

"Yes," said Miss Malvina recklessly. She would not rob that poor panting young bosom of its last flickering hope. "Thank God for that much!"

The boy lifted his eyes toward the been home an hour ago. He had run, panting and stumbling, over three long miles of dark, uneven country roads.

Still half a mile lay between him and his one earthly friend. He halted only long enough to fling that gasping question at Miss Malvina. Perhaps be might still hear his dear father's voice ready presumably insured against the if but in a deathbed blessing. He was speeding onward at a pace which soon effaced every sign of his slender figure. Miss Malvina sighed heavily.

"Perhaps I told him a lie. But what else was there to do? Poor boy, poor

She turned about and walked nias and princess feathers. She tipbering in her armchair. She lifted a The sun dropped behind the tallest lamp and placed it carefully out of trees that crowned the bluff against range of the big chair. She took up a book only to put it down unopened. level rays and flamed into a brief glory | dinary occupation. She crept once more to the front gate.

The solemn stillness grew more impressive with the passing of each moment. She wished some figure, no matter whose, might appear going toward the village from Broxton. She should like to hear that Tom had not got there too late.

She had thrown a white apron over her head as protection against night dews. She leaned with her elbows on As a tired child might have sobbed itself to sleep, "Mother" Spillman pass- A horseman was cantering slowly in her direction from the colonel's. She opened the gate and stepped into the road.

A puff of wind caught her white apron and sent it fluttering right into the horse's face. She could hear the Its rider exploded angrily:

"Who in the deuce are you? You have made me drop my bag."

"It's only me, Malvina Spillman. wanted to ask about the colonel.

"Did Tom get there in time?" "No."

"Yes."

He was down on the ground now groping for his dropped bag. Malvina roped too. It was she who found it. It had bounced quite up into a corner of the fence and come unclasped in the when their own only one had fallen transit. She mechanically clasped it as she handed it back.

"Is that all you dropped?"

"Yes." "I am sorry I frightened your horse." But Mr. Matthews was already back in the saddle and cantering rapidly homeward. Her apology had gone for

naught. There was nothing more to be gained by standing at the gate. She went back into the house, taking care not to be too quiet this time. She wanted her mother to wake up, so that she could she fell asleep-how poor Tom had come home afoot and well nigh breath And now in the hour of his extremity less, how, through Reuben's being Miss Malvina could not bear to think drunk and gone quite senseless, Tom's of the colonel having an unfulfilled home coming had been too late for wish. Jessy had told her that all his him to hear his father's last words. cry was: "Why doesn't the boy come? and how Lawyer Matthews had been pointedly rude to her simply because her white apron had fluttered out and And Jessy knew, because she was frightened his horse. Then she took

> But, after all, what a small matter great disappointment to think of!

> She promptly effaced herself, always great sorrow.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Miscellaneous Reading.

WHAT THE LEGISLATURE DID. The following are the captions of

he acts passed at the recent session of which may have accrued thereon, and deserted. At its best travel toward the legislature that are of either gen to include the same, with interest eral or local interest: An act to provide a means whereby

any purchaser in this state of commercial fertilizers or manure may have he same analyzed by Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical college free of costs, and to provide a penalty for delivering fertilizers or manures short in ingredients appearing on sack or vessel holding same.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the state of South Carolina to be known as article 1 of amendment to constigeneral assembly to provide by law for the condemnation and equitable assessment of lands for drainage pur-

of the streams and draining of the wamps and bottom lands of the state. An act to amend Title XI, Chapter XXVI, Article 3, Statues of 1893, by inserting another section, to be known as Section 1,323, and fixing the weight of a bushel of bolted corn meal.

An act to require the burning or burial of any dead swine whenever Matthews, mother? He stands well the station with his buggy. I think he death shall result from any natural must have been drunk. He upset the cause, and to provide a penalty for tain moneys now held by him under

An act to amend Sections 3 and 4 of system of county government for the on railroad bonds due by each townseveral counties of this state so far as ship and to pay the same. it relates to the maintaining and working of the roads and highways."

An act to amend an act entitled 'An Act to require all railroads and nme 2, Revised Statutes of 1893, so as railroad companies operating trains to prohibit the sale and shipping of shrubbery of Broxton lawn. But for and doing business in this state to partridges for five years. that senseless mishap he would have provide and operate separate coaches or separate apartments in coaches for the accommodation and transportation of white and colored passengers in the to punish frauds committed thereat. state," approved the 19th day of February, A. D. 1898.

An act to confirm the incorporation n this state of the Carolina and North-Western Railway company and to define its powers.

An act to require railroad corporaand delivery of cars and freight.

An act to provide for the incorporation of religious, educational, social, fraternal, or charitable churches, lodges, societies, associations or companies, and for amending the charter of those already formed and to be formed.

An act to provide a mode for the mendment of charters of corporations peretofore or hereafter granted.

Af act for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and provide for reporting infectious and contagious An act to amend Section 919, Gen-

ral Statutes, being Section 970 Revised Statutes, providing for a state board of medical examiners so as to provide also for a homeopathic board f medical examiners. An act to authorize and require cer-

tain causes of action, proceedings and matters in the probate courts of Union, Spartanburg and York to be transferred to the probate court of Cherokee county.

An act to empower the county board of commissioners of York county to borrow money to build a bridge across Catawba river.

A joint resolution proposing to amend Section 7, Article 8, of the constitution relating to municipal bonded indebt-

An act to require clerks to satisfy of record certain mortgages of real estate and to prescribe the form.

An act to amend an act entitled "An Act to prevent drunkenness and shooting upon the highway," approved 3d March, 1899, making the same more specific. An act to amend an act to provide

for the adoption of legitimate children and allowing them to inherit, approved December 24, 1892. An act to amend an act entitled

"An act to regulate the foreclosure of mortgages of real estate," approved January 5, A. D. 1895. An act to amend the act approved

19th February, 1898, entitled "An Act to establish and declare the law as to listress for rent. An act to limit the liability of part-

ners after the dissolution of a firm to heir own acts. An act to provide for special courts. An act to amend an act entitled

An Act to fix the time for holding he courts in the 6th circuit," approved the 2d day of March, A. D. 1899. A joint resolution to instruct and

equire the attorney general to invesigate the fertilizer trust. An act to further protect water-

works, sewers and drains of cities and

An act validating the jury lists drawn in Union and York counties. An act to regulate the practice in suits brought on causes of action which are saved from the bar of the statute of limitation by part payment or written acknowledgment.

An act to require the keeping of a record and report of criminal statistics. An act making it unlawful for any municipal officer to take a contract for work for the municipal corporation of which he is an officer, and to provide a penalty for violation of this act. An act to amend Section 334 (277)

of volume 1 of the Revised Statutes of 1893, so as to allow a mortgagee to pay the delinquent taxes due upon any property owned by a mortgagor, together with all costs and penalties thereon, in the debt secured by the mortgage.

An act to provide for the completion of the Winthrop Normal and Industrial college of South Carolina, and to appropriate money for the same.

An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to provide for the election of a board of control, and to further regulate the sale, use, consumption, transportation and disposition of intoxicating and alcoholic liquors or liquids in the state, and prescribe penalties for violation of dispensary laws, and to police the same," approved March 6, 1896, as amended by the act approved 5th March, 1897, so as to abolish the state and county boards of control and the commissioners, as now provided by said act, and to devolve their duties An act to provide for the cleaning upon the officers named in this act. An act to provide for pensions for

ertain soldiers and sailors now residents of South Carolina, who were in the service of the state in the late war between the states. An act to create a sinking fund for

Cherokee county.

An act to authorize the county treasurer of Cherokee county to transfer certhe past indebtedness fund of certain townships of said county to the fund an act entitled "An Act to provide a collected for the payment of interest An act to establish a reformatory in

connection with the state penitentiary. An act to amend Section 431, vol-An act to amend the act entitled

'An act to protect primary elections and conventions of political parties and approved 22d December, 1888.

An act to provide for state insurance for public buildings.

Murderous Convict.

Amos Carter, who was in charge of the Marlboro chaingang, was attacked ions, where two or more lines enter or last Tuesday by one of the convicts pass through the corporate limits of with an axe. He was so badly hurt any city or town in this state, to build that it is thought he will die. The connecting tracks for the interchange convict who struck the blow escaped with three others.