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GOTHIC BOURNES

**OF ONE WHO HAD LIKE TO
HAVE BEEN CARRIED AWAY
BY SPIRITS.**

(1775)

TRANSCRIPTION BY
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THE
HISTORY
OF
WITCHES, GHOSTS,
AND
HIGHLANDSEERS:

CONTAINING
Many wonderful well-attested RELATIONS
OF
SUPERNATURAL APPEARANCES,
Not Published before in any similar Collection.

DESIGNED
For the Conviction of the UNBELIEVER, and
The Amusement of the CURIOUS.

Somnia, terrores Magicos, miracula, Sagas,
Nocturnos Lemures, portentaque, Thessala rides?
Say, can you laugh indignant at the schemes

Of magick terrours, visionary dreams,
Portentous wonders, witching imps of Hell,
The nightly goblin and enchanting spell?

—
BERWICK:
PRINTED FOR R. TAYLOR.
[PRICE THREE SHILLINGS.]

Source: https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=-wtgAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=%22tHE+HISTORY+OF+WITCHES,+GHOSTS+AND+HIGHLAND+SEERS%22&source=bl&ots=v5PFMnO7uT&sig=XfLckPwQzBkvugygrEnHcG-4N8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewi6l7zV_ljXAhUKNxQKHSPcD9kQ6AEIRTAJ#v=onepage&q=%22tHE%20HISTORY%20OF%20WITCHES%2C%20GHOSTS%20AND%20HIGHLAND%20SEERS%22&f=false, pp. 47-51.

*Of one who had like to have been carried away by Spirits.*¹

A GENTLEMAN in Ireland, near to the Earl of Orrery's seat,² sending his butler one afternoon to buy cards, as he passed a field, to his wonder, he espied a company of people sitting round a table, with a great deal of good cheer [sic] before them, in the midst of the field; and he going up towards them, they all rose and saluted him, and desired him to sit down amongst them, but one of them whispered these words in his ear, (do nothing this company invites you to). He therefore refused to sit down at the table, and immediately the table and all that belonged to it were gone, and the company began with dancing and playing upon musical instruments; and the butler being desired to join himself with them: on his refusing this also, they all fell to work, and he not being to be prevailed with to accompany them in [48] working any more than in feasting or dancing, they all disappeared, and the butler was left alone; but instead of going forward, he returned home as fast as he could drive, in a great consternation of mind; and was no sooner entered his master's house, but down he fell, and lay some time senseless; but coming to himself again, he related to his master what had happened to him. The night following there came one of this company to his bedside, and tells him, that if he offered to stir out of doors the next day, he would be carried away; hereupon he kept within, but towards the evening, having need to make water, he ventured to put one foot over the threshold, which he had no sooner done,

¹ All italics seen here are italicized in the original text.

² The seat of Orrery is in Cork, Ireland. This story most likely refers to the first Earl of Orrery, Roger Boyle (1621-1679), as suggested in Joseph Glanvill's *Saducismus Triumphatus: or, Full and plain evidence concerning witches and apparitions in Two Parts: The First Treating of their Possibility, The Second of their Real Existence*, first published a century earlier than this version of the story in 1681.

but they espied a rope cast about his middle, and the poor man was hurried away with great swiftness: they followed after as fast as they could, but could not overtake him: at length they espied a horseman coming towards them, and made signs to him to stop the man, whom he saw coming near him, and both the ends of the rope, but no body drawing; when they met, he laid hold of one of the ends of the rope, and immediately had a smart blow given him over his arm, with the other end, but by this means the man was stopped, and the horseman brought him back again.

The Earl of Orrery having heard of these strange passages, sent to the master, desiring him to send this man to his house, which he accordingly did, and the morning following, or quickly after, he told the earl that the spectre had been with him again, and assured him, that day he should most certainly be carried away, and that no endeavours [49] should avail to the saving of him: upon this he was kept in a large room, with a considerable number of persons to guard him, among whom was the famous Mr. Greatrix,³ who was a neighbor: there were besides other persons of quality, two bishops in the house at the same time, who were consulted touching the making use of a medicine, the spectre or ghost prescribed (of which more by and by) but they determined on the negative; till part of the afternoon was spent all was quiet, but at length he was perceived to rise from the ground: whereupon Mr. Greatrix, and another lusty man, clapt [sic] their arms over his shoulders, one of them before and another behind, and weighed him down with all their strength, but he was forcibly taken up from them, and others were too weak to keep their hold; for a considerable time he was carried into the air to and fro over their heads, several of the company still running under him, to prevent his receiving hurt, if he should fall; at length he fell, and was caught before he came to the ground, and had by that means no hurt.

All being quiet till bed-time, my lord ordered two of his servants to lie with him; and the next morning he told his lordship, that his spectre was again with him, and brought him a wooden dish with grey liquor in it, and bade him drink it off. At the first sight of the spectre, he said, he endeavoured to awake his bed fellows, but it told him, that that endeavour should be fruitless, and that he had no cause to fear him, he being his friend, and he that gave him

³ "Mr. Greatrix" here refers to Valentine Greatrakes (1628-1682), an Irish faith healer known as "The Stroker". He told this particular tale throughout Ireland as his own eye witness account. This information is discussed in Andrew Lang's *Cock Lane and Common-Sense*, first published in 1894.

the good advice in the field, which had he not followed, he had been before now perfectly in the power of the company he saw there: he added, that he concluded it was impossible but that he should have been carried away the day before, there being so strong a combination against him; but now he could assure him, that there would be no more attempts of that nature; but he being troubled with two sorts of sad fits, he had brought that liquor to cure him, and bid him drink it: he peremptorily refused it; the spectre was angry, and upbraided him with disingenuity, but told him, that however he had a kindness for him, and that if he would take plantain juice, he should be well of one sort of fits, but he should carry the other to his grave. The poor man having by this time somewhat recovered himself, asked the spectre, whether by the juice of plantain, he meant that of the leaves or roots, it replied, the roots. Then it asked whether it did not know him? he answered, I am such a one; the man answered, he hath been long dead; I have been dead, said the spectre or ghost, seven years, and you know that I lived a loose life, and ever since hath been hurried up and down in a restless condition, in the company you saw, and shall be to the day of judgment [sic] : then he proceeded to tell him, that had he acknowledged God in his ways, he had not suffered such severe things by their means; and farther said, you never prayed to God that day before an unlawful business, and so vanished.

N. B. This story was likewise sent from Mr. Edward Fowler, to Dr. H. More, and confirmed by Lord Orrery to Lady Roydon and others, who asked him concerning the truth of it.⁴

⁴ This postscript refers to actual persons in the 17th century thought to have corroborated the truth of this tale. Again, Joseph Glanvill's *Saducismus Triumphatus: or, Full and plain evidence concerning witches and apparitions in Two Parts: The First Treating of their Possibility, The Second of their Real Existence* of 1681, cites these illustrious parties as having attested to the veracity of the butler's trials. Edward Fowler was a churchman who served as Bishop of Gloucester in the 17th century. Dr. H. More refers to Henry More, a well-known Cambridge Platonist philosopher. Lord Orrery was a landed Irish gentleman as discussed earlier, and Lady Roydon was most likely a similarly known and respected member of the landed English gentry.