

The Salamanca Corpus: "Vigornian Monologue. XII." (1895)

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XII.

A's bin out to dahy fur 'alf a hour. 'r else 'a'ant bin out fur a soul o' a while. The doctor said as 'e must n't goo out i' the cowld wotever nur 'e must n't goo out nowhur fur lung; 't ud be the dyuth on 'im else; a's waas'ed to nothin.'

But a tell 'ee wot it is. Thur yeant no use fur 'e t'have the doctor an' take doctor's stuff. E doan't want no medcin' 'e doan't. E be better without none. Wot it is as ah-ils 'e is 'e's bewitched. T wuz thot 'ooman as lived i' one o' thahy 'ousen agen the rick-yard o' Gadbury Form, an' us lived i' the t'other. A wuz under the same ruff like.

An Kezzy Smort 'er sez to me. " 'Ow con 'ee live anearst thot 'ooman," er sez 'er's thot hugly, I 'oodn't live anights her wotever." "I knaows," I sez, " 'er's a curous lookin' piece, but a doan't think thur's no 'arm in 'er." An' a didn't find o' nothin fur some time, an' then us kep' missin' thin's fro' the gorden, but a couldn't ketch 'er at it, but us nearly did. An' then us missed thin's from th' house, an' then the mon 'e begins to fa'ter, 'er



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bewitched 'e, an' a niver 'an't bin right sence, as a' mahy sahy; a bin allus ahildin'.

An' so I ups an' gooes to the mas'r an' I tells 'im the whole pedigrees on it, an I sez, "A corn't put up ov this no lunger, us or er must be to goo." An' 'e sez, "I corn't odds it" 'e sez, and us better goo, an' us went.

And then the mon wuz better fur some time, for 'er didn't knaow whur us wuz gone. But arter a time 'er fund out, an' it begun agen; an' so I wrote to 'er, and I sez, "I doan't want to do 'ee no 'arm, an' I 'opes 'ee doesn't want to do we none, an' ef I've wronged 'ee, I opes 'ee 'll forgie mah, an' is thur any thin' as I con do fur 'ee?"

An' 'er wrote a letter back, an' 'er said as 'er ud be glod ov a par o' shoes fur 'er little girl. So I bought a par an' gin horf-a-crownd fur em, an' I sent 'em to 'er. An' 'e wuz better fur a time an' simd to mend a bit, but 'e soon got wuss agen and' 'ad bad pahins all over, nights an' dahys, a couldn't sahy wot a wuz like. Ef a could on'y get at 'er an' draw blood, 'e'd soon be all right; but then 'er's fower an' twenty mile awahy. Ef 'er wuz 'ere, us 'ud soon monage it some 'ow.

Sometimes 'e's thot moitherdy an' mombledy, an' a doesn't scace knaow whur 'e be, an' talks all manner. But I must be to find a bit o'fier. It be very cowld, accordin' to the time o' yur. I thinks it ull rahin; the sun drawed water 's marnin, an' 'e fils o' the cowld, it snirls 'im up, an' 'e 'as to lap 'isself up well. Knaow 'ow owld 'e be? I doan't knaow, nur nobody else doan't knaow. Iss, I knaows as a sez I doesn't do the best as I con fur 'im. Folks talks, a allus does talk, but I doesn't 'arp.

OUTIS