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A GHOST STORY WHICH CAME TRUE.

"Holloa, Jack! Have you brought your [illegible]

"Yes, sir, I have, sir, and I've been waiting here this half-an-hour, sir, and I was just coming to the house to see what was the matter."

"Well, I was detained by a most extraordinary circumstance, which I will tell you by and by. Put up the horses and come in to supper."

Early on the next morning I was awakened by my valet with the information that the day was fine, and that the sleigh was ready. As I was dressing I felt very much like a person who has been the victim of a practical joke, and who, on the morrow, finds himself in a state of doubt as to how much of the affair he may consider as a joke, and how much he may treat as a matter of serious offence. My valet, however, relieved me from the embarrassment of the situation by his manner, which was that of a man who has been the unwilling agent in a practical joke, and who, while he dares not laugh in his employer's face, is yet in a state of uncertainty as to how far he may indulge his risibilities without incurring the displeasure of his master. I felt that I could not be angry with a man who was so evidently ashamed of his share in the affair, and I contented myself with ordering him to be ready with the sleigh at ten o'clock, when I intended to drive over to Mr. Carrick's to inquire after the health of my fair friend, Miss Carrick.

At ten o'clock I was ready for my drive, and I found my valet had not exaggerated the condition of the weather. It was a most glorious morning for a sleigh drive. The air was just sufficiently keen to make one feel that to be out of doors was a positive pleasure, and the sleigh was in the best possible condition for the enjoyment of such a drive. The horses, too, seemed to feel the influence of the bracing air, and they bounded along the road in a manner that was very pleasant to their owner.

I had ordered my valet to accompany me, and we had not been long on our way when I felt that I was glad I had taken him with me, for he was a good-tempered fellow, and I was in a mood to be pleased with his society. We had driven about three miles when we came to a small village, through which we had to pass, and as we drew near to the village I noticed that my servant was evidently on the alert for something or other. We had not gone far through the village when we came to a small house, before which a crowd was collected, and my servant, pointing to the house, said, "There, sir, that's the place where the murder was done."

"What murder?" I asked, for I was ignorant of any murder having been committed in the neighborhood.

"Why, sir, don't you remember the murder of old Farmer Jacobs? It was in all the papers at the time, sir."

"Oh, I remember now," I said; "but I had forgotten the name of the place where it was said to have been committed. Do you think that this is the house?"

"I know it, sir, for I was here at the time, and I saw the corpse before it was buried."

"Do you, indeed? Then you must be a person of some importance in the village, I suppose, as you have had the honor of viewing a corpse before it was buried."

"I don't know about that, sir, but I was the first man who saw the corpse after it was found."

"Indeed! Then you must be a person of some importance, for I suppose you will be called upon to give evidence at the inquest."

"I have already given my evidence before the magistrate, sir, and I shall have to go again when the inquest comes on."

"Then you have already seen the murdered man?"

"Yes, sir, I have seen him, sir, and I wish I hadn't seen him, sir, for he looked so terribly when I first saw him."

"Why, what was the matter with him? Was he much disfigured?"

"Disfigured, sir! I should think he was disfigured, sir, when I tell you that his head was almost cut off his shoulders."

"Good heavens! Do you mean to say that the murderer cut the man's head almost off his shoulders?"

"Almost cut his head almost off his shoulders, sir, I mean to say that the murderer cut the man's head almost off his shoulders, sir, and I mean to say that I saw the man with his head almost cut off his shoulders, sir, when he was first found