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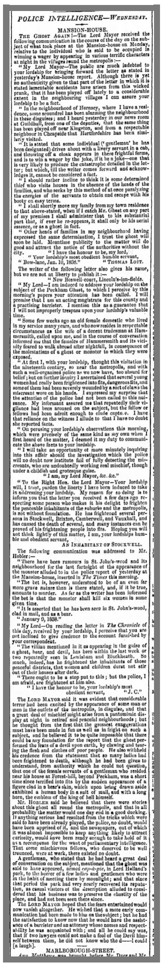

POLICE INTELLIGENCE—*Wednesday.*

MANSION-HOUSE.

The Ghost Again!—The Lord Mayor received the following communication in the course of the day on the subject of what took place at the Mansion-house on Monday, relative to the individual who is said to be occupied in winning a wager by appearing in various terrific characters at night in the villages round the metropolis:—

"My Lord Mayor—The public are much indebted to your lordship for bringing forward the letter as stated in yesterday's Mansion-house report. Although there is yet no authenticity given to that part of the letter in which it is stated lamentable accidents have arisen from this wicked prank, that it has been played off lately to a considerable extent in the neighbouring villages I can assure your lordship to be a fact.

"In the neighbourhood of Hornsey, where I have a residence, some scoundrel has been alarming the neighbourhood in these disguises; and I heard yesterday in our news room at Guildhall, from one of the deputies, that the same thing has been played off near Kingston, and from a respectable neighbour in Cheapside that Hertfordshire has been similarly visited.

"It is stated that some individual ('gentleman' he has been designated) drives about with a livery servant in a cab, and throwing off a cloak appears in these frightful forms, and is to win a wager by the joke, if it be a joke—one that is very likely to produce the catastrophe detailed in the letter; but which, till the writer comes forward and acknowledges it, cannot be considered a fact.

"I should rather incline to think it is some determined thief who visits houses in the absence of the heads of the families, and who seeks by this method of at once paralyzing the energies of the servants to obtain and escape with his booty on easy terms.

"I shall shortly move my family from my town residence to that above-stated, when if I catch Mr. Ghost on any part of my premises I shall administer that to his substantial part that, if ever he re-appears, it shall only be his aerial essence, or as a ghost in fact.

"Other heads of families in my neighbourhood having expressed the same determination, I trust the ghost will soon be laid. Meantime publicity to the matter will do good and attract the notice of the authorities without the city.

"I have the honour to be, my lord,
"Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,
"Bow-lane, Jan. 10, 1838." "Thomas Lott.

The writer of the following letter also gives his name, but we are not at liberty to publish it:—

"New Boswell-court, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

"My Lord—I am induced to address your lordship on the subject of the Peckham Ghost, to which I perceive by this morning's papers your attention has been called. I will premise that I am an acting magistrate for this county and a practising barrister. I mention this as a guarantee that I will not improperly trespass upon your lordship's valuable time.

"Some few weeks ago an old female domestic who lived in my service many years, and who now resides in respectable circumstances as the wife of a decent tradesman at Hammersmith, called upon me, and in the course of conversation informed me that the females of Hammersmith and its vicinity feared to walk abroad after nightfall, in consequence of the molestations of a ghost or monster to which they were exposed.

"At first I, with your lordship, thought this visitation in the nineteenth century, so near the metropolis, and with such a well-organised police as we now have, too absurd for belief; but on further inquiry I ascertained that several young women had really been frightened into fits, dangerous fits, and some of them had been severely wounded by a sort of claws the miscreant wore on his hands. I expressed my surprise that the attention of the police had not been called to this nuisance. My informant assured me that repeatedly their vigilance had been aroused on the subject, but the fellow or fellows had been adroit enough to elude capture. I have that reliance on the witness I allude to that I have no doubt she reported facts.

"On perusing your lordship's observations this morning, which were precisely of the same kind as my own when I first heard of the matter, I deemed it my duty to communicate the above facts to your lordship.

"I will take an opportunity of more minutely inquiring into this affair should the investigation which the police will no doubt now institute fail of fully detecting the miscreants, who are undoubtedly working real mischief, though under a childish and grotesque guise.

"I am, my Lord Mayor, &c. &c."

"To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor—Your lordship will, I trust, pardon the liberty I have been induced to take in addressing your lordship. My reason for so doing is to inform you that the letter you received a few days ago respecting some person who makes it his delight to frighten the peaceable inhabitants of the suburbs and the metropolis, is not without foundation. He has frightened several persons in Stockwell, Brixton, Camberwell, and Vauxhall, and has caused the death of several, and many instances can be proved of his frightening people into fits. Hoping you will not think lightly of this matter, I am, your lordships humble and obedient servant,

An Inhabitant of Stockwell.

The following communication was addressed to Mr. Hobler:—

"There have been rumours in St. John's-wood and its neighbourhood for the last fortnight of the appearance of the monster alluded to in the police report of yesterday at the Mansion-house, inserted in *The Times* this morning.

"The bet is, however, understood to be of an even far more grave nature than is there stated, and, if it be true, amounts to murder. As far as the writer has been informed the bet is that the monster shall kill six women in some given time.

"It is asserted that he has been seen in St. John's-wood, clad in mail, and as a bear.

"January 9, 1838."

"My Lord—On reading the letter in *The Chronicle* of this day, received by your lordship, I perceive that you are not inclined to give credence to the account furnished by your correspondent.

"The villian mentioned in it as appearing in the guise of a ghost, bear, and devil, has been within the last week or two repeatedly seen in Lewisham and Blackheath. So much, indeed, has he frightened the inhabitants of those peaceful districts, that women and children durst not stir out of their houses after dark.

"There ought to be a stop put to this; but the police, I am afraid, are frightened at him also.

"I have the honour to be, your lordship's most
obedient servant, "J. C."

The Lord Mayor said it was evident that considerable terror had been excited by the appearance of some man or men in the outlets of the metropolis, in disguise, and that a great deal of mischief might arise from a pantomimic display at night in retired and peaceful neighbourhoods; but he thought from the first that the grossest exaggerations must have been made in fun as well as in fright on such a subject, and he believed it to be quite impossible that there could be any foundation for the report that the ghost performed the feats of a devil upon earth, by clawing and tearing the flesh and clothes off poor people. He also withheld his credence from the statement that so many ladies had been frightened to death, although he had been given to understand, from authority which he could not question, that one of the female servants of a gentleman who resided near his house at Forest-hill, beyond Peckham, was a short time since terrified into fits by the sudden appearance of a figure clad in a bear's skin, which upon being drawn aside exhibited a human body in a suit of mail, and with a long horn, the emblem of the king of hell himself.

Mr. Hobler said he believed that there were stories about this ghost all round the metropolis, and that in all probability the matter would one day end in a good ducking. If anything serious had resulted from the tricks which were said to have been already played, the police, no doubt, would have been apprised of it, and the newspapers, out of which it was almost impossible to keep anything likely to attract curiosity, would have been ready enough to take hold of it as a recompense for the want of parliamentary intelligence. That some mischievous fellows, who deserved to be well trounced, were at work, there existed no doubt.

A gentleman, who stated that he had heard a great deal of conversation on the subject, mentioned that the ghost was said to have appeared, armed *cap-à-pie*, in Lord Helland's park, to the horror of a few ladies and gentlemen who were in the habit of meeting there by moonlight; and that since that period the park had very nearly recovered its reputation, as casual visitors of the description alluded to considered that his business was to preserve the chastity of the place, and had not been seen there since.

The Lord Mayor hoped that the fears entertained would now vanish altogether. He wished that a more early communication had been made to him on the subject; but he had the satisfaction to know now that he would have the assistance of a barrister and an attorney whose names and respectability he was acquainted with; and all he could say was, that if two lawyers could not make a fool of the Devil himself between them, he did not know who the d——l could [a laugh].

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

Ann Matthews was brought before Mr. Dyer and Mr.

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