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MARY REYNOLDS.

[This story of Mary Reynolds' was narrated in Harper's Magazine, (No. 120 May 1860) by the Reverend William S. Plumer, D. D., from data partly supplied by relatives and also by memoranda contributed by the subject herself.]

Towards the close of the last century, William Reynolds, with his family, emigrated from England to America. A member of the Baptist denomination, he was an intimate friend of Robert Hall and other distinguished "Dis-senters." Leaving his family in New York, he took his son John, then a lad of fourteen years, and located his home in "the forest primeval." It was in Venango County, in Western Pennsylvania, between Franklin and Titusville—which latter place was then only a settlement made by Jonathan Titus, Mr. Reynolds' nearest neighbor. Having, with the assistance of his son, built a log cabin, Reynolds left the lad to take care of it while he returned to New York to bring the remainder of the family. In four months they were re-united in their western home. Of this family was a daughter, Mary Reynolds, born in England and a child when brought to America. There was nothing remarkable about her childhood and youth. She possessed an excellent capacity and enjoyed fair opportunities to acquire knowledge. Mr. Reynolds' home was for years a "stopping place" for the pioneer missionaries of what was then the "Far West," so that the family had the advantage, not enjoyed by other frontier families, of associating with education and culture and they seem to have profited thereby. Mary, while not brilliant, seems to have been endowed with an uncommonly well-balanced mind. She became subject to "fits" when she was eighteen years old, though no reliable information as to their cause or character is given.

In 1811, when Mary was about nineteen years of age, she had an attack of unusual severity. She had taken a book, one Sunday in the spring, and had gone into the field at some distance from the house that she might read in quiet. She was found lying insensible and, being restored to consciousness, was blind and deaf for five or six weeks. When she recovered sight and hearing and was almost restored to her former health, about three months after this attack, came the first indication of double consciousness. She was found one morning, long after her usual hour for rising, in a profound slumber, from which she awoke after some hours.

In that sleep she lost all recollection of her former life. She knew neither father, mother nor relatives. All her acquired education had passed from her and her knowledge of common, everyday things and of language was precisely that of a new-born infant. The only difference between her condition and that of a babe was that she had the faculty of acquiring knowledge possessed by a mature person and thus rapidly learned the lore of the world

into which she had been so strangely re-born.

After remaining in this infantile condition for five weeks, she awoke one morning in her natural state, without the slightest recollection of the lapse into juvenility, and she took up life at the precise point where she had left it when she fell into that slumber from which she had awoke to the new life. The change of the season and the difference that the interval of five weeks had made in the home were wonderful to her, as having occurred in one night.

After the lapse of a few weeks there was a recurrence of the profound slumber and an awakening to the infantile life which she thereupon resumed, her knowledge being limited to what she had acquired during the past five weeks' "term" of the new life.

These alternations from one state to the other continued for fifteen or sixteen years, and only ceased finally when she had attained the age of thirty-five or thirty-six years, leaving her permanently in "her second state," in which she remained without change for the last quarter of a century of her life.

In 1836 Miss Reynolds, who was then housekeeper for her nephew, the Reverend John V. Reynolds, D. D., at his request, made a written statement of some of the facts of her remarkable experience. As she was then permanently established in "the second state," having no recollections of the incidents of her normal state, she relied upon the testimony of friends for the circumstances concerning it. She says:

"From the spring of 1811, when the first change occurred, until within eight or ten years, frequently changing from my first to my second, and from my second to my first state, I was more than three-fourths of the time in my second state. There was no regularity as to the length of time that one or the other continued. Sometimes I remained several months, sometimes only a few weeks, or even days, in my second state; but in no instance did I continue more than twenty days in my first state. The transitions from one to the other always took place during sleep. In passing from my second to my first state nothing special was noticeable in the character of my sleep. But in passing from my first to my second state my sleep was so profound that no one could wake me, and it not unfrequently continued eighteen or twenty hours.

"Whatever knowledge I acquired in my second state became familiar to me in that state, and I gained such proficiency that I became acquainted with things, and was, in general, as intelligent in that as in my first state.

"My mental sufferings in the near prospect of the transition from either state to the other, but particularly from the first to the second (for I commonly had a presentiment of the change for a short time before it took place) were very great, for I feared I might never revert so as to know again in this world, as I then knew them, those who were dear to me. My feelings, in this respect, were not unlike those of one

about to be separated from loved ones by death. During the earlier stages of my disease I had no idea while in my second state, of employing my time in anything useful. I cared for nothing but to ramble about, and never tired of walking through the fields and woods. I ate and slept very little. Sometimes, for two or three consecutive days and nights I would neither eat nor sleep. I would often conceive prejudices, without cause, against my best friends. Those feelings, however, began gradually to wear away, and eventually quite disappeared."

Mary Reynolds' two lives were thus entirely separate and the intervention of one or the other apparently made no break in the continuity of either one. The strangest feature of this metamorphosis was that in her normal or "first state" she was quiet and sedate and pensive almost to melancholy, with an intellect sound though rather slow and singularly destitute of the imaginative faculty, while in the abnormal or second state, she was gay and cheerful, extravagantly fond of society, fun and practical jokes, with a lively fancy and a strong propensity for rhyming. Her handwriting was entirely different in the one state from that of the other. In her normal condition Miss Reynolds regarded her dual personality with dread, as a severe affliction of Providence and especially, as she said, because it might lead her to forget her parents and loved ones. Yet in the abnormal state she dreaded the return of the normal condition or personality for quite different reasons. She looked upon it as passing from a bright and joyous into a dull and stupid phase of life!

She then became acquainted with members of the family in both personalities and was especially fond of her brother John, who resided at Meadville—some thirty miles from her home in Venango County. On one occasion, while in her "second state," she rode to Meadville on horseback and visited at the home of a Mrs. Kennedy where she became a guest for several weeks. Among other friendships there she made one with a Miss Nancy Dewey and they occupied the same bedroom. One night they agreed to play a practical joke on John Reynolds, who was boarding at the same house, but when Mary awoke she had changed to her natural state. She, of course, found herself sleeping with a total stranger, in a strange house and in a town she had never before

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In the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Herbert B. Sawyer,

vs.
Rufus E. Wedge and Mildred J. Wedge, his wife, Charles R. Kidwell and Amanda Anderson, formerly Amanda Kidwell, wife of Charles R. Kidwell, Levi Wilhelm, and Alvin Nelson, and Martha A. Nelson, his wife. Rufus E. Wedge and Mildred J. Wedge, his wife, Charles R. Kidwell and Levi Wilhelm will take notice that on the 23rd day of August, 1900, Herbert B. Sawyer, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the District Court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against said defendants, the object and prayer of which is to foreclose a certain mortgage executed by the defendants, Rufus E. Wedge and Mildred J. Wedge to one James E. Seeley upon lots 13 and 14 in block 3 of W. H. Irvine's second addition to the city of Lincoln, located on the north one-half (n 1/2) of the southwest quarter (s w 1/4) of the southwest quarter (s w 1/4) of section eighteen (18), township ten (10), in range seven (7), east, to secure the payment of a certain promissory note dated September 1, 1900, for the sum of seven hundred (\$700.00) dollars, with interest at seven per cent per annum and due and payable on the first day of October, 1896, and that there is now due upon said note and mortgage the sum of twelve hundred (\$1200.00) dollars, that said note and mortgage has been duly assigned and is now owned by the plaintiff.

Plaintiff further prays in his petition that a mortgage executed by Charles R. Kidwell and Amanda Kidwell to the said Rufus E. Wedge, and by the said Rufus E. Wedge assigned to Levi Wilhelm for the sum of \$160.00, given February 16, 1893, be declared a subsequent and inferior lien to that of the plaintiff.

Plaintiff further prays for a decree that the defendants be required to pay this said mortgage of \$1200.00 and that said premises may be sold to satisfy the amount found due. You and each of you are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 28th day of October, 1900.

Dated August 28, 1900.

HERBERT B. SAWYER, Plaintiff.

By A. W. FIELD, his Attorney.

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