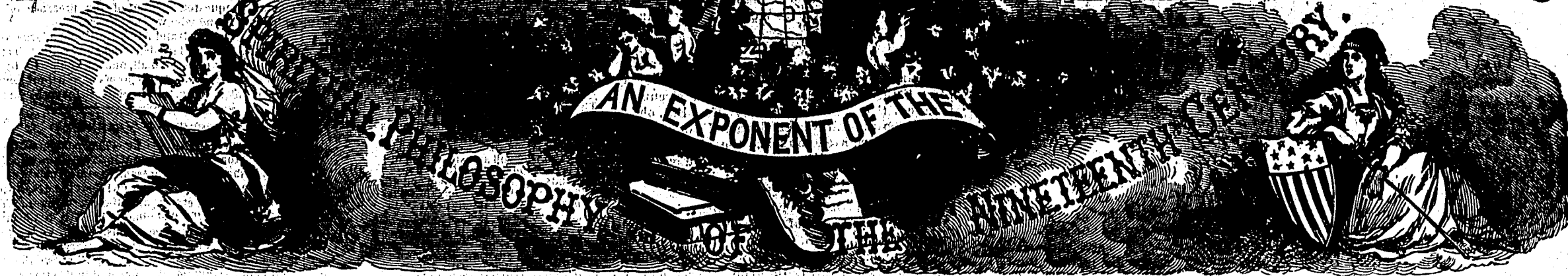


BANNER OF LIGHT.



VOL. LX.

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A Memorable Gathering of New York Spiritualists.

PRESENTATION SOCIAL.—Your company is requested at a Presentation Social to be given in honor of Mrs. E. A. Wells, at her parlors, 322 6th Avenue, New York City, (between 46th and 47th streets,) at 8 o'clock, Saturday evening, Nov. 20th, 1886.

C. P. SYKES,
E. INYIS,
THOS. KNOX,
Committee.

To the Editor of the Banner of Light:

The invitation which is above transcribed gave rise to one of the most agreeable occasions which it has fallen to the lot of Spiritualists as a body to participate in, and you missed a very enjoyable evening by being compelled by the force of circumstances to forego it. Aside from this the occasion was one we have too few of within our ranks, for it was to do honor to a good and true medium who has gained the confidence and esteem of all who know her.

It is only a very short time ago that Mrs. Wells, whilst employed as the head of a department in an uptown mercantile establishment, began to be developed as an instrument for spirit control. As is quite common in such cases, this development proceeded until it so completely absorbed the vital energies of the medium that she was compelled to relinquish all other employments and give her exclusive attention to the invisibles, or rather suffer herself to be guided in her movements almost exclusively by them. The result has been that she now occupies a front rank among those who have become instrumentalities by means of which the light of revealed truth is rapidly dispelling the darkness which for so many centuries has enshrouded our earth.

Last summer Mrs. Wells accepted an invitation from the Southern Association of Spiritualists to be present at the "Lookout Mountain Camp-Meeting," and among her other phases of manifestation, give sensuous evidence of the full form materialization of spirits. The ordeal was no easy one, for the field was comparatively new, and the doubters, even amongst Spiritualists, not a few. But it is only moderate praise to say that Mrs. Wells, in every instance of trial, proved herself a reliable medium and materialization an incontrovertible truth.

Latterly, as you have informed your readers, Mrs. Wells has been the instrument of a series of test séances at the home of Mr. H. J. Newton, which, we are informed, have been thus far very satisfactory to all present.

In order to show their appreciation of her mediumship in a tangible form, several of her most intimate friends inaugurated the social alluded to above, their confidence in her as a medium being emphasized by the presentation of a very handsome testimonial, in the shape of one of Mason & Hamlin's grand organs.

The three parlor rooms of the residence were filled with leading Spiritualists of both sexes. Amongst others there were present Mr. and Mrs. Poole, Prof. and Mrs. Kiddle, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Nellie J. T. Brigham, Luther P. Marsh, J. Franklin Clark, E. H. Benn, Mr. Bunce, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Ralston, Mrs. Thayer, Mrs. Parlow, Mr. McDonald, Mrs. Egan, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Schooley, Mr. Morrill, Mr. and Mrs. Stryker, Mr. and Mrs. La Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. DeWier, Miss Anderson, Mr. Chasteller, Mr. Wyburn, and quite a number of others.

The presentation ceremonies were opened by Mrs. Brigham as follows:

MRS. NELLIE J. T. BRIGHAM'S ADDRESS.
It is a privilege and pleasure to be present and called upon to speak a word of congratulation, as perfectly as may be under the circumstances. It calls down from the immortal hills the prayers and bright flowers of spirits sweet. What gift, my friends, could be so expressive of affection as this instrument of harmony? You are well aware that many of your friends are in favor of organization, and this is a good way to organize. And so it is given as an evidence of our pleasant relations, and that our love for you numbers not. It is given to you to open a pathway for those who are in shadow's way. To you has come this gift of music sweet, to make this best philosophy complete. Accept it then, and think of those you love. There are many who dwell in the realm above. Who bear the deep, sweet harmony of unbroken love.

And may your life like music grow more deep and sweet, And fill you with the expression of love that is complete. Keep the gifts you have to wipe the sad tears away, To bring the spirits to earth-life, from the realms of endless day.

Here is a little book, and when upon its pages you look you will see there the names of friends, some famous and some unknown to fame, and their names shall be to you a cup of purest, sweetest water, a cup for thirsty lips. Think of friends when you read these words, which breathe their breath of love to you for what was pure and sweet that came from the realms above. Long may your life and run; sweet may be its harmony divine, and when the shadows of earth shall grow dark and the sunbeams from above shall shine on you in the fair land where flowers ever bloom, then may the sweet words come to you that all is well.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Brigham's remarks, Mrs. Wells, who was completely taken by surprise, rose, and with a face beaming with mingled gratitude and astonishment, expressed in a few well-chosen words her heartfelt thanks for the unexpected testimonial bestowed upon her by her generous friends. It was, she said, impossible for her to say all she felt, and she would deputize Mr. Newton to answer more fully for her.

HENRY J. NEWTON.

You have heard Mrs. Wells delegate me to express her feelings. It strikes me that she has a very extravagant idea of my mental capacity, for when a man undertakes to express a woman's feelings he had better keep still; so I am not going to attempt anything of the kind, for Mrs. Wells said more in those few words than I could have expressed in an hour.

I have been enraptured with her lately, and know her pretty well, and I have sometimes tried to realize her situation. I have tried to imagine myself a woman, alone in a great city like this, alone with hundreds of thousands on every side, and I was exceedingly glad when this opportunity was presented to give expression to our confidence and appreciation. Imagine yourself a woman, alone in this city of New York. There must be times when the clouds lower, and a darkening storm seems to be gathering. Not all men are human beings; there are wolves, sometimes in sheep's clothing, going about in packs, and you hear them howling on your track, and the cry of the hyena and the scream of the vulture echo in your ear.

When these clouds gather, and prophesy storm and disaster, I want to say to my friend, turn over the pages of this little book, and on each page you will find a lighted taper, which will illumine the darkness and dispel the storm. That is what we all want.

There is one more thing I want to say: I out as a local Spiritualist paper speaking of Mrs. Wells' success, and the hope is expressed that it will afford some consolation to the milk-and-water brethren. Now I don't want Mrs. Wells to think that the brethren (sisters are not mentioned) are milk-and-water. I want to say emphatically that neither the brethren nor sisters who are here have any of that milk-and-water in their composition. [Some one in the audience suggests cream.] Well, I don't want to arrogate that to myself, because I might get a churning when I got home, [laughter] and in regard to our feelings toward Mrs. Wells, I feel confident that I express the sentiments of every one when I say that we will stand by her to the end.

Musio by Mr. and Mrs. DeWier.

PROF. HENRY KIDDLE.

Friends.—It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be here this evening, and to participate in this expression of regard and respectful confidence, as they are displayed or shown by the presence of so many persons, who have met to do honor to this medium. And I think the gift that is bestowed as a token of this feeling is an exceedingly appropriate one, as has been already expressed—expressing as it does harmony, than which nothing is so essential in this existence between the medium and those who are instructed through her gifts. If there is not harmony, if there is not perfect rapport, as we say sometimes, existing between those who stand in relationship with the medium, the manifestations cannot be presented as they ought to be, and as the spirits who come desire that they should be.

Now in this phase of mediumship, Sister Wells has attained a distinction, I am sure a very merited distinction, for this phase of mediumship has been a great bone of contention, not only on the part of the outside world with Spiritualists, but on the part of Spiritualists with Spiritualists. And although I think it is one of the most valuable phases of mediumship at the present time, I think the spirits have chosen well in making it so prominent as they have, particularly during the last ten years, because it appeals directly to the sensuous observation of those to whom it is manifested, and we are living when sensuous observation is required. I admit that it is not normal, that it ought not to be, and that these sensuous demonstrations of the spirit ought not to be needed, and are not always needed, have not always been needed in the history of the world. But they come in at certain times when mankind descends in the scale of his spiritual being, by his own indifference to his inner nature. Then it is necessary that the law that is established by the Divine Spirit (I take it) to correct this and to withdraw mankind from that state into which it has plunged itself, to its own destruction—then the law operates to bring this base of the spirit and to present

spirit existence under all these sensuous manifestations, of which I regard materialization as being, perhaps, the greatest known.

But it seems to have been that this has brought down and caused the most obprobrium in the outside world. And I believe it to be because the séances have not been held under the right conditions. There has not been that harmony between the sitters and the medium who is the instrument of the spirit operators in presenting these manifestations, and without that harmony we have, as the result, these various occurrences which seem to us to have been so disastrous.

I have investigated this matter of materialization for the last ten years to a considerable extent, but I have always felt that it is necessary that the sitters themselves should be the instruments as well as the medium, or else no true manifestations can be obtained. We cannot go to a materialization séance as we go to the theatre or the circus, simply to look on; we must go as participants—we must take part in it. The medium takes a part, but we certainly do at least a subordinate part. It is through our means partially when we sit that these manifestations occur. You cannot expect to have good manifestations unless your spirits are properly attuned to the required condition; and if they are not, then the séance is perilous to the medium, perilous to yourself and perilous to the cause.

I do not think it is possible to find any medium in this country, or in England, whose genuineness and whose honesty and integrity have not been seriously impugned. The very best mediums—those mediums who have been used by the greatest scientists of the time to demonstrate this fact, and who have demonstrated it under the very best conditions, and have really made it a fact of science to any reasonable man or woman—those very mediums have had their honesty impugned and doubted.

Now this problem has presented itself to very many thinking, experienced and cultivated minds, and is still a question, but we find them all coming to the conclusion that it is not alone the medium that is to blame. Therefore I have always been in favor of spiritual conditions, and I always said the best conditions are the conditions of the spirit, and if you all come and sit down in a circle attuned spiritually you will get good manifestations.

I am not going to say the mediums are wholly exculpated. It is, unfortunately, the case now that this matter of mediumship is made too much of a trade, too much of a business; necessarily so; I am not going to blame the mediums for this condition that is forced upon them. They must have their support, and we as Spiritualists must do what we can to support them, or else, of course, nothing can be done. But it is unfortunate that it should be so. It is unfortunate that the desire for money should be so largely the object of these manifestations, and there is where we must direct our attention in order to correct this matter as it ought to be.

I have made the foregoing remarks in a general way; I do not wish to go into any particular detail in regard to the matters I have alluded to, as it is not necessary; I have said this because I would emphasize, especially at this time, the necessity of harmony with the medium, and of never sitting down in any circle with any medium unless you have entire confidence in that medium, and then you will be willing to testify, as you have here to-night, to your affection, regard and confidence. To place the medium in the position of a felon—and a manacled felon at that—and then expect the higher spirits and angels to come down and visit you through her, why you can see it is not the spirit which this gathering manifests. They would not endure it if they were treated thus. It is always possible to see whether the demonstrations are in good faith, especially if you see with your spiritual, as well as your physical sense of vision.

Rejoice, I say again, I rejoice that these friends have gathered here to make this manifestation of their regard for this medium! I know her to be an honest medium. I know that if she should ever meet with a disaster—and she may as a public medium, for there are none I would ensure against it—I will not believe it is her fault; I shall believe those spiritual principles, and thoroughly search into them, and shall think that it was not alone her fault.

I congratulate Mrs. Wells upon her success, which has been attained by her honesty, and I trust it will continue, as I am sure it will, if the conditions are those of affection and love and regard for her.

MRS. MILTON RATHBUN.

Mrs. Wells and Friends.—It gives me great pleasure to stand before you and add to the congratulations that have been so ably expressed. I used to know Mrs. Wells when she was a humble medium like myself, and hope she will not forget her old friend now that she is getting to be famous. I confess that I had an inkling that I should be called upon to speak; and as I was anxious to say something fine, I sat down this afternoon, tried to become poetic, and said, "Come, spirit friends, give me something really nice to say;" and their answer was, "There will be many brilliant speakers on hand, and while it is perfectly proper for you to offer congratulations, we should not advise a little rushlight to talk."

But there is one thing I want to say, and that is, that we should be always staunch and loyal to these mediums. Mrs. Wells has progressed, and I am very glad that it has been made public in the manner in which she has given explanation to so many as Mr. Newton's house. I congratulate you upon this occasion, and I trust you will remember not only Mrs.

Wells but many other mediums who have been tried and found true. I feel, coming in to this assemblage of strong hearts and loyal souls, the desire that we would make some recognition of others tried and true; and I think we might have a monthly meeting of this kind to show our appreciation of all true mediums.

A letter of regret from Mr. Colby of the BANNER to the committee was then read, as follows:

Gentlemen of the Committee.—As I am obliged to return to Boston to-day, I regret to inform you that I shall be unable to attend the contemplated Social to be extended as a complement to the excellent materializing medium, Mrs. Wells, whom I have already fully endorsed in the BANNER.

Under these circumstances I should be pleased to have my personal friend, Mr. Nelson Cross, of your city, represent me on the anticipated occasion.

Very truly yours,
L. COLBY.

JUDGE CROSS said: Mrs. Wells, Ladies and Gentlemen.—You who know Mr. Colby know how indifferently I must represent him, but in one respect I feel equal to the task assigned me. He has said on more than one occasion that it is out of his power to make an acceptable speech in public. For thirty years Mr. Colby has labored to spread the truth—spiritual truth—among the people, and in this he has met with great opposition and severe obloquy.

I congratulate not only Mrs. Wells but all here that we have met upon an occasion so full of pleasure to all of us. I am not used to speaking when music and flowers are the surroundings, and I tried to find some fault to cavil at with those who have spoken before me, but I could not. I agree with all that has been said; and I not only agree on these points, but I know the truths that have been spoken of materialization, and I heartily endorse them.

I differ with many of you upon some points; but it is well that it is so, for if we should agree upon all, we would stop growing. These very differences lead us unto the truth, because we investigate to see whether we are right or our friend is wrong. There is nothing I find so much pleasure in as my belief in Spiritualism. What my belief was before, I could not tell you. I do not know myself. There was nothing in the old belief that satisfied me. When I heard of Spiritualism and began its investigation, I began earnestly—not believing it. I began as many do now, and possibly I blame some people for beginning as I did, but that is the right way. I began my investigations for the purpose of ascertaining if it was true, for I saw if it was it would be, as a religion, infinitely above any other that has been accepted.

It was only the other day that Mr. Colby visited Mrs. Wells. I had sent him, some years ago, a message from the spirit-world, which came through Mrs. Wells when we were meeting with Mr. Bunce, Miss Anderson and others, for the purpose of helping on her development so far as we could; and in the course of those sittings, a spirit through her sent a message to Luther Colby, which I communicated to him. It was recognized by him; but I saw him afterwards, and his cross-examination of me respecting that message led me to remark to him that he was a good deal of a skeptic, notwithstanding he had been publishing his paper so long. Well, he came to New York and attended Mrs. Wells' séance. This was only a short time ago, and the spirit of the message came and identified herself so clearly that there was no disputing it. Then, what was still more remarkable, was the fact that he went to the Rogers mediums, and there, between sittings, on a piece of blank paper, he binding the slates together himself and holding them on his shoulder or his head, had given him the picture of this same spirit—Ella Simpson—and recognized it as her likeness.

This was to him most gratifying, and he regretted that he could not be here now. But I say, for him, that a more honest and a more earnest worker in this cause than Luther Colby never lived among us. As to Mrs. Wells, I would vouch for the honesty of all that takes place here. We are apt to forget that the medium is an instrument for us as well as the spirits. Through her we talk with our angel friends, and by the same means they commune with us. It is reciprocal, and if you do not get the highest manifestations, do not blame the medium. The force must come from the medium and the audience, and those whom you invite will come. The medium is not always responsible though she be honest. You may get that which is not satisfactory, because you make your own conditions and the class of spirits come that you have provided for. You will get great manifestations if earnest and honest on your part, but those persons who come to find fault will never be satisfied. If you will sit with any good medium continuously for a number of sittings under proper conditions you will get that which will surprise you. I do not stand here to say simply that I believe these manifestations, I stand here and say that I know them to be true. For twenty-five years and over I have investigated these things earnestly, and I assure you I sought to learn the truth, and I would rather have it than the approbation of the world, if I cannot have both.

J. FRANKLIN CLARK.

Friends.—It is a source of great satisfaction for me this evening to meet with you here and assist in presenting this testimonial of our esteem and regard for Mrs. Wells and her work. I presume that all here are Spiritualists, and we know that for all the knowledge which we have received from the spirit-world we are indebted to the mediums.

It is, my friends, a great blessing for our sister to be chosen by our ascended brothers and sisters, and every Spiritualist will willingly testify that from her has been received knowledge and light.

The pathway of a medium is not always strewn with flowers, but often with sharp stones, and as they pass over they leave it marked with their blood. Let us hope that the rough parts have been passed, and dare to express the wish that in the future, at some time, we may meet together again to congratulate her upon her work well performed, and when she shall find her life-work ended may it be said she has been fulfilling the law.

MR. BUNCE.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—I thought it might be entertaining to give you a brief account of the growth of Mrs. Wells' mediumship. I think I was the first person that ever sat with her and her room-mate in 25th street. At Mrs. Wells' request I sat with them, as they were afraid to sit alone, and we commenced with the table. We had most beautiful communications from Alice Cary and many others. Afterwards I took my family. On one occasion she took my wife to the bedside of a friend twenty-five hundred miles away, who had died of consumption.

Mrs. Wells passed through many phases of mediumship, and finally the table was abandoned and Mrs. Wells' growth into a materializing medium and final release from daily business was foretold.

Mrs. Wells visited me at my home in the country, and on one bright moonlight night I saw a beautiful manifestation of materialization. Coming from Mrs. Wells' shoulder a hand and finally an arm developed, holding a light. In one of these materializing circles, where there was the element of love and affection, she sat entirely outside the cabinet and her guide and other spirits talked inside. These harmonious circles develop phenomena that Spiritualists in public circles know nothing of.

MR. WILSON McDONALD.

I think I'll take Mr. Newton's advice and not say anything, except that I am one of the old original kind of Spiritualists. I commenced thirty-eight years ago. I am simply a man of facts; all the higher ideas I can get from books, but the facts and the phenomena I find right here.

I take very great pleasure in a testimonial of this kind. Speaking of the great principle of evolution and progress, which many of us have studied, we see it in Spiritualism, and in the manifestations and philosophy as in everything else. I have not much time to look after these things, because I am engaged in modeling in clay a spirit who departed a short time since.

But I have investigated this subject for thirty odd years, and I am entirely satisfied that harmony is essential to the higher spiritual manifestations. There was a time in the savage condition of man that the doctrine was an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, but a great trinity of three men arose. One was a Chinaman, one a Greek, and the other was born in Nazareth. These three men taught the doctrine that we should cultivate love, and affection, and charity, and that greatest of all, I think, forgiveness. This we ought to cultivate, for it brings out the higher, grander and better qualities of our nature.

I, for one, heartily join in this testimonial, and hope the instrument will represent those who have brought it, and help her through life, and that when she plumes her wings for the other world, she will carry with her these sweet memories.

After tests by Mr. Copeland, a rhythmical improvisation on mediumship was delivered by Mrs. Brigham, after which the company gradually separated, but not without congratulating the medium, as well as each other, upon one of the most entertaining and agreeable occasions in which it had ever been the lot of all present to participate.

H. M. M.

The Truth Spreading.

Step by step the truth embodied in the Spiritual Dispensation is making its way through the forest of error and superstition, and sowing the seeds of a better and broader system of religious belief as it goes. The way is made plain to all the people as the spirit of that truth descends into mortal homes and hearts. If it were in the power of the persecuting bigotry, it would banish all mediums from the land, or imprison, if it could not banish them. But the days of such iniquities are past for us.

The world obtains knowledge that is to be obtained from no other source, by spirit communion through the medial agents of the New Dispensation. This knowledge is convincing professed unbelievers of every class that there is a world of spirits. Thousands have been relieved of the anguish of their hearts by simply being made to know that their loved ones live and await them in the spirit-world. The wonders of the old-time "miracles" are explained. Jesus declared that those who believed on him should do not only the works which he did, but even greater; and the promise is being daily fulfilled in the present age—the Christian Church itself being the chief doubter of this very fulfillment of its own founder's prophecy. The spiritual kingdom is right in our midst; a new revelation of thought claims popular attention, and the cry continually goes up for more light and wisdom. Death has ceased to be the king of terrors. It rather opens immortality to the view, and shows spirit friends ready with open arms to receive us. Truly remarkable a writer in the secular press: "The air is filled with their invisible presence; we are surrounded by a host of spirit friends who watch over us, and do all they can for us."

A NARRATIVE OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE HIGHER LIFE.

I.

Now I too felt an impulse to wander, until I felt a weariness, and seeking out a retired nook I threw myself upon the ground to rest when my whole being was pervaded with blissful drowsiness and I slept, I know not how long, but on awakening I was surprised to find myself dressed in a garment like the others, flowing robe of light, that was seen rather than felt, only mine was less brilliant. I think

"I had not thought of being frightened; but have you been here long?" I asked.

Every lady who knows its worth (and who does not feel that the kindly face of Lydia E. Pinkham is that of an honored friend,

Peter Thompson, O. S. Bates, S. S. Baker, Dr. M. and Mrs. Lyman, the latter relating that at a seance held by Mrs. Thayer a skeptical gentleman said if he could get a test from a certain friend whom he declined to name, he would be a Spiritualist.

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Male's Honey, the great cough cure, 50¢; and
Glenn's Sulphur Soap, tooth and hairbrush, 10¢;
German Corn Cure, 10¢; Miller's Ointment, 10¢;
Mill's Hair Oil, 10¢; and
Pike's Tooth Paste, 10¢; and
Beck's Tooth Paste, 10¢.

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Glenn's Sulphur Soap, tooth and hairbrush, 10¢;
German Corn Cure, 10¢; Miller's Ointment, 10¢;
Mill's Hair Oil, 10¢; and
Pike's Tooth Paste, 10¢; and
Baker's...

MISS ANNETT E. LEWIS, the talented and promising daughter of our friend, James Lewis, Esq., of Springfield, Mass., passed to spirit-life on the morning of November 20th. Our deepest sympathies are with bereaved parents.

"POST-MORTEM CONVERSATIONS," the latest of his work, Allen Putnam's latest and our favorite; the brochure is sold for the express and sole benefit of this veteran Spiritualist, and his a helping hand to readers.

Mr. J. E. Putnam's residence is 125 West 42nd street, New York City.

Advertisements.

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LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S
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IT WILL CURE ENTIRELY THE WORST FORM OF
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WEAKNESS, AND IS PARTICULARLY ADAPTED TO
THE CHANGING PERIODS OF YOUTH.

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TION.

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five cents. Write to LYDIA E. PINKHAM, 235
NORTH BROADWAY, NEW YORK, for full particulars.

Dr. F. L. H. Willis

May be Addressed until further notice.
123 Amity Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. F. L. H. Willis may be addressed as above. From this
point he has been called to the attention of the public
by his successful treatment of a large number of cases
of various diseases, and his accurate diagnosis of the
same. He is a graduate of the Medical College of
the City of New York, and has been practicing
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elected to the office of President of the same.

SOUL READING.

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