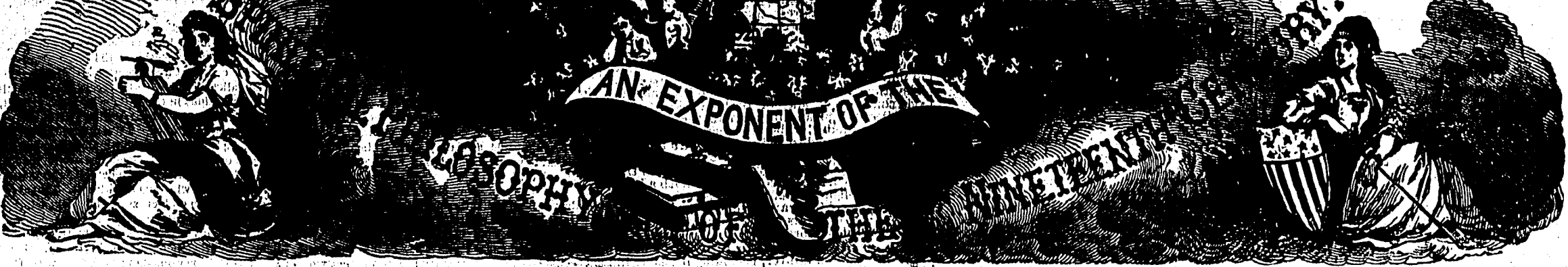


# BANNER OF LIGHT.



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## Spiritual Phenomena.

[From "Light," June 11th, 1887.]

### A MEDIUM'S EXPERIENCES IN RUSSIA.

BY W. KOLINTON.

There was recently published in *Light* an article by a well-known Russian lady, distinguished in literature, giving a résumé of the rise and spread of Spiritualism in that country. She might, perhaps, have more fully referred to the subject had she been certain of more space being accorded her, but as it was, she gave a very accurate account of the movement as she understood it; and, having been intimately acquainted with Spiritualism for many years, she was competent to form an opinion upon the subject. She might have added, however, that the slowness with which ideas march in her country, and as a consequence the dominating influence of the church, tended to make the people welcome anything new which would emancipate them from their extreme orthodoxy. I therefore found a good field in which to work: a people hungry for that truth and rationalism which they had not found in the Greek Church. My visit to Russia last year was practically a private one, a circle in Moscow, under the presidency of the late M. Nicolas Looff, having exclusively retained me for six weeks in that city, during which time, however, I had the opportunity of meeting the most notable of the people therein, many of whom are ardent Spiritualists. My friends, Alexander Akasof, had also arranged that I should pay him a month's visit at St. Petersburg for the purpose of scientific investigation, so that on this occasion I had not the opportunity of giving the Russian public any chance of witnessing the phenomena attending my presence. My visit there, however, served to move the way for my work this year, the excellent letters written by the late Prof. Boutleroff (than whom no more doughty champion for our cause ever lived, and whose loss to us cannot be overestimated) and Prof. Wagner and Dobroslavin arousing the greatest possible interest in the subject. This visit, coupled with the publication in the *Rebus*, by Mr. Akasof, of his subsequent photographic experiments in London, caused a wider and greater predisposition to see me in the Russian capital again. Accordingly, after visiting Munich and Hungary, I arrived in St. Petersburg for a second time in February.

It is perhaps only right that I should here be allowed to publicly express my thanks to M. Akasof, Miss Prebittok, Mr. Excellency Madame Sabourin, Captain Prebittok, Prince Nicolas Bogoroff, Baron Schlichting, the Prince of Mingrelia, Gen. Raconne-Sonchewsky, Adm. Zaslavko (page to the Emperor), and others. Strange to say, the Russians showed a preference for dark séances, probably because they admit of a larger attendance than those for psychography; so that on this, as well as on other occasions, I was, against my will, forced to depart from my ordinary rule. It is unnecessary to refer to details to phenomena which are familiar to readers of *Light*, but there were several manifestations of more than ordinary interest which produced a great sensation, and, I think, carried conviction to all. After this séance the newspapers began to insert the most outrageously absurd statements in regard to the wonders I could produce, some going so far as to say that by a wave of my hand I could cause water to enter a room and make it increase or decrease at will; others, again, saying that I could make forests grow, or cause my body to disappear from one room to another, and so on. I am not inclined to believe the Russian press so favorably disposed to Spiritualism at all, was a great thing, but I certainly was not prepared for the notoriety which these statements gave me. I literally had no peace at my hotel, for there everybody had access to me, but, fortunately, a gentleman whose acquaintance I had made in England and was acquainted with, came to my room, and by offering me the hospitality of his splendid residence saved me much fatigue and annoyance by kindly undertaking to see my visitors for me, and thus weeded out the merely curious from the really earnest inquirer. To this gentleman, as well as to his brother, Dr. B. Linn, and his family, I am indebted for much kindness and courtesy.

Séances followed in rapid succession, some of those attending (and many of whom are pronounced Spiritualists) being Madame Bebbok, the Romanian Ambassador, Prince Scherzky, Prince Baron Melndorf, Prince Olin, Prince de Tolly, Prince Gagarin, Prince Olin, General Favors, Madame Minorvitch, the Marquis de Camposagrado, General Gerblin, Madame Jelliofsky (later of Madame Blavatsky), Professor Paschutin, the Marquis Paruski, Prince Metecheroff, Professors Wagner and Dobroslavin, Count Scholtenberg, and host of other distinguished and well-known persons. To have satisfied all the demands made upon my time it would have been necessary to materialize a few more Eglintons. Following these sittings came an invitation to give a séance at the palace of the Grand Duke Constantine, which was attended with perfect success. After this I was invited to the palace of the Grand Duke Oldenburg, at which the Princess, an excellent medium, greatly assisted by her power, gave a most successful performance. A SEANCE AT THE PALACE OF THE EMPEROR. The highest following I spent at the theatre,

where I may say my appearance was as much the object of criticism as that of the different actors; and, though the Russian theatres do not close until the small hours of the morning, I was commanded by his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis, the brother of the Emperor, to give a séance notwithstanding. We were a party of eight in all, the sitters consisting of the Grand Duke, his brother, the Grand Duke Vladimir, and the Grand Duchess Vladimir, Count Ardberg, Countess Bobanoff, and others. One striking phenomenon occurred at this séance which is worth recording: Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Vladimir, was sitting by my side in the dark, holding my hand, when suddenly she commenced to rise in the air, screaming "Up, up, up!" as she continued to ascend, I was compelled to leave her hand, and on returning to her seat she declared that she had been floated over the table without anything having been in contact with her. Apropos of this séance, I have in my possession an envelope upon which is printed the "Palais Vladimir," the number of which, unknown to him, was correctly written between two slates without the envelope being opened until after the termination of the séance. This envelope can be seen by the curious and it affords a most striking answer to some recent criticisms for conditions dispensing with "continuous observation." As showing what late hours the Russians keep, I may mention that the supper following the séance, to which the Grand Duke Alexis did me the honor of inviting me, was not finished until 1 A.M.

A SEANCE WITH THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.  
This same morning I was informed that the Emperor and Empress would give a séance the following Friday, and wishing to have the most complete success, I refused all séances in the interim—no easy matter, as I found, when people of distinction were pouring invitations upon me. I was kept in ignorance as to where the séance was to be held until the last moment, when I was informed that it was to be at the palace of the Grand Duke Oldenburg. It has not often fallen to the lot of an Englishman to see a czar of Russia, and although I am by this time familiar with royalty, I confess to an exceeding nervousness in the consciousness that I was about to see the Emperor and Empress of Russia.

The day before, Mr. Akasof and I, desiring to retain some souvenirs of this séance, searched St. Petersburg for some suitable slates, and finding some to serve our purpose I armed myself with a number before proceeding to the palace. On entering the palace I found the Emperor and Empress seated on a sofa, and I was introduced to them by Mr. Akasof. The Emperor and Empress were both dressed in their usual attire, and I was struck by the Emperor's bearing, which was that of a man of great power and authority. The Empress was also very impressive, and I was struck by her beauty and grace. The Emperor and Empress were both very kind and courteous, and I was struck by their intelligence and refinement. The Emperor and Empress were both very interested in the séance, and I was struck by their interest and attention. The Emperor and Empress were both very kind and courteous, and I was struck by their intelligence and refinement.

As may be supposed, after the news of this sitting spread abroad, I was in greater request than ever. Society usually follows its leaders like a flock of sheep. Even in the height of a London season, and in a country where I am well known, I have never had so many invitations. On one day, of course there were not all requests for séances. Even the conjurers paid me an indirect compliment upon my success, one of them, Beaudet de Koltz (the cousin and late manager of the Beaudet de Koltz of Egyptian Hall fame), paying me a visit for the express purpose of making me a present of a coming lion. He seemed to be somewhat astonished when I told him no medium wanted a manager, and that I did all my own work, and traveled without confederates or apparatus. "Ah!" remarked he, "that's a pitch of perfection to which we conjurers have not yet attained." It was, perhaps, the most complimentary remark I have ever heard. Of course there were not all requests for séances. Even the conjurers paid me an indirect compliment upon my success, one of them, Beaudet de Koltz (the cousin and late manager of the Beaudet de Koltz of Egyptian Hall fame), paying me a visit for the express purpose of making me a present of a coming lion. He seemed to be somewhat astonished when I told him no medium wanted a manager, and that I did all my own work, and traveled without confederates or apparatus. "Ah!" remarked he, "that's a pitch of perfection to which we conjurers have not yet attained." It was, perhaps, the most complimentary remark I have ever heard.

until I was compelled to beg her not to hold me so hard. I began to ascend into the air, the Empress and the Princess Oldenburg following me. The confusion was something indescribable, as I rose higher and higher, both my neighbors clambering on to their chairs as best they could. It was not conducive to the mental equilibrium on the medium's part to know that an Empress was performing such antics, and I was not hurt and annoyed, as I had been during my flight, to be allowed to break up the séance. All to no purpose, and I continued to rise until my feet came into contact with two shoulders upon which I rested, and which afterward proved to be those of the Emperor and the Grand Duke of Oldenburg. As some one facetiously observed, "It was the first time the Emperor of Russia had been under any one's foot!" When I descended the séance terminated, I being quite exhausted, and the party delighted. The Empress acted throughout with great coolness and judgment, and even asked to be transported with me into the next room for a rest. The ladies were most courteous at dark séances than men. Notwithstanding our success, both the Emperor and Empress begged me to give them another dark séance there and then, but this I was compelled to refuse, owing to my weakened condition. I, however, proposed a slate-writing séance, to which the Imperial Majesties were pleased to give assent.

A STRIKING PSYCHOGRAPHIC SEANCE WITH THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES.  
An interval for the ever-ready tea followed, and then we resumed what proved to be a most momentous and perhaps historical sitting. This time we were four only beside myself, the sitters being the Emperor and Empress and the Grand Duke and Duchess of Oldenburg. Various experiments were tried, one which has frequently been accomplished, viz., that of four numbers being demanded in four different colors, the sitters choosing their own color, succeeding perfectly. Then came the crowning point of this séance. Various answers having been obtained to the questions propounded, the Emperor placed two clean slates together, and he, the Empress and myself held them above the table. Soon the sound of writing was heard, and, on uncovering the slates, one was found to be filled in the handwriting of one perfectly well-known to me. I cannot here state what the question was, but the communication was, but, as it is well-known in Russia as well as to some few in this country, I may at least say that it had reference to an event which occurred a few days after, and which has now become a matter of history. Probably this slate, which is preserved, may in future generations be obtained to the question of the power of the spirit to prophesy. Their Imperial Majesties were much moved by this communication, and a painful silence followed. Luckily, the Grand Duke Vladimir having given into the custody of the czar a sealed envelope containing a bank-note, I was enabled to break the silence by proposing to get the number written. The czar placed it between my Brahmalock slates, the zarina choosing a piece of red crayon. The slates rested under the hands of the Emperor and the Grand Duchess. After we had heard the writing, the slates were opened, and the number written on the slates was found to agree with that of the bank-note. Rising from his chair and shaking me warmly by the hand, the Emperor said: "This is truly wonderful, and I thank you very much for having been the means of showing me such manifestations of the power of the spirit. I am, perhaps, but a poor man, but I am glad to have been able to see such things. I am, perhaps, but a poor man, but I am glad to have been able to see such things. I am, perhaps, but a poor man, but I am glad to have been able to see such things."

With this account of my first séance with the Emperor and Empress of Russia, I must hasten to make reference to other events and séances, lest I tire the reader. As no restriction was placed upon my reference to the sitting above recorded, beyond what was naturally left to my good taste and judgment, I have no hesitation in giving them publicity, but in regard to other interviews I am unable to speak. I may, however, say that before I left Russia I was the recipient of a handsome pair of diamonds and sapphires valued at five hundred rubles, and a remembrance of the events narrated, and because of the honor attached thereto.

THE DEMAND FOR INQUIRY GROWING.  
As may be supposed, after the news of this sitting spread abroad, I was in greater request than ever. Society usually follows its leaders like a flock of sheep. Even in the height of a London season, and in a country where I am well known, I have never had so many invitations. On one day, of course there were not all requests for séances. Even the conjurers paid me an indirect compliment upon my success, one of them, Beaudet de Koltz (the cousin and late manager of the Beaudet de Koltz of Egyptian Hall fame), paying me a visit for the express purpose of making me a present of a coming lion. He seemed to be somewhat astonished when I told him no medium wanted a manager, and that I did all my own work, and traveled without confederates or apparatus. "Ah!" remarked he, "that's a pitch of perfection to which we conjurers have not yet attained." It was, perhaps, the most complimentary remark I have ever heard. Of course there were not all requests for séances. Even the conjurers paid me an indirect compliment upon my success, one of them, Beaudet de Koltz (the cousin and late manager of the Beaudet de Koltz of Egyptian Hall fame), paying me a visit for the express purpose of making me a present of a coming lion. He seemed to be somewhat astonished when I told him no medium wanted a manager, and that I did all my own work, and traveled without confederates or apparatus. "Ah!" remarked he, "that's a pitch of perfection to which we conjurers have not yet attained." It was, perhaps, the most complimentary remark I have ever heard.

OTHER SEANCES AT ROYAL PALACES.  
The day following the first séance with the Emperor, I gave a séance at the palace of the Grand Duke Sergius, there being present the Grand Duchess, Count Stenbock, Colonel Stepanoff, Count Soumarokoff, and several others. The results were as satisfactory as those of previous séances. Again the Grand Duke Alexis honored me by another invitation to his palace, there being present their Imperial Highnesses the Grand Duke and Duchess Vladimir, the Grand Duke and Duchess of Oldenburg, the Princess and Princess Mecklenburg-Schwerin, etc., etc. On this occasion, also, we were extremely successful, and I received the warm thanks of all present.

thanks and congratulations of all. Altogether the Grand Duke Alexis attended four of my séances, the most interesting he saw being the one held at the Spanish Ambassador's, various phenomena taking place at the supper table. Before I left the city I received from his Imperial Highness a handsome present of an old, silver loving-cup, of exquisite workmanship, which he begged me "to keep in remembrance of him."

SEANCES WITH M. DE OIRS AND THE GRAND DUCHESS VLADIMIR.  
Perhaps one of the most pleasant incidents in my Russian experiences was the sitting with M. de Oirs, the great Foreign Minister, a Spiritualist of many years' standing, his two sons mediums, and trying, with some success, for transcendental photographs. It is, perhaps, only a sequence to my good fortune to say that I received a cordial welcome in his palace, and I retain many pleasant recollections of his talented family, his musical evenings being for me a special treat, when, in the privacy of his home, he conversed freely upon various subjects of great interest. If I were to give my impression of this brilliant man, I should say he is too honest to be a minister. No diplomat, politically, afford to be so, hence the attacks which are constantly being made upon him by the Katkoff party. Katkoff is, himself, so I am reliably informed, a Spiritualist of long standing.

Seance after seance followed, again and again with royalties, the Grand Duchess Vladimir honoring me no less than seven times by attending my sittings. It is curious to note that the military element dominated at the séances, but perhaps this is accounted for by the fact that as Russia has such a vast army she must necessarily have a huge array of officers. One of the most interesting séances was that at the residence of General Gressor, the chief of the police, who arrested with his own hand the man carrying the bombs intended for the destruction of the czar.

THE OPPOSITION OF THE PRESS.  
Of course this upheaval which was going on in society in regard to Spiritualism necessarily attracted the attention of the journals, which began to fear the undue prominence they had given me. Owing to one or two Metropolitan of the Church having sought interviews with me, at once the cry "the Church is in danger" was raised, and henceforth the papers, by which the Russian public are more particularly led, began to heap abuse upon me, after having tried their best to commend me by their praise. Then arose the proverbial "two sides of the coin" and the other against, and in that condition I left them. I could have remained in St. Petersburg for a year, and been busily employed, but a prior arrangement with my Moscow friends made it imperative for me not to tax their kindness and patience too much.

Thus after two months' hard work in the Russian capital, I left on the 3d of April for Moscow, where I was met the following morning by my friends of the past year.

VISIT TO MOSCOW.  
It was my intention to have stayed in Moscow for a considerable period, but the sudden transition of the President of the Society disarranged all our plans, and I returned to England after having remained in that city only two weeks. The kindness and great hospitality I everywhere received in Russia, more particularly at the hands of my Moscow friends, among whom I may mention Col. Blacornoff, M. Theodore Lvoff, M. Mayloff, M. Kludoff, Col. and Mrs. Greck, M. Diagoff, and others, have left a deep impression upon my mind, and I am, I may say, probably do at no distant date; but whether in my capacity as a professional medium, I am unable at this moment to say.

I think I may venture to say, in conclusion, that a work has been accomplished in Russia, which has had the result of making Spiritualism upon a firm and lasting basis. The *Rebus*, a journal devoted to Spiritualism, and ably edited and supported by Captain Prebittok and M. Akasof respectively, is steadily increasing in influence and circulation, and it suffered a great blow—as did the whole of our movement—when its chief contributor, the late Prof. Boutleroff, passed to the higher life. But in Russia, as everywhere else, the cause lacks that financial support which alone can help to maintain its usefulness and increase its influence, which is all the more strange when it is remembered that so many wealthy and distinguished members of society openly and actively profess their belief in Spiritualism. There are not wanting, however, signs that the selfishness which has so long disgraced our cause in England, as in other countries, is being replaced by a more active desire for each one to contribute his share in help or in work toward the common good. Let us hope that that period is nearer at hand than we now imagine.

EVIDENCES OF INVISIBLE INTELLIGENCE.  
To the Editor of the *Banner of Light*:  
In these days when physical scientists and psychical philosophers are alike seeking to create a doubt in the mind of man as to the verity of spirit presence and communion, I feel it to be a duty (which I share in common with all who are cognizant of the fact), to place before the public with proper emphasis accounts of such phenomena as I may encounter going to show the operations of invisible but plainly human intelligence which are to be witnessed on all sides in the presence of spiritual mediums and those demonstrators of immortality to this nineteenth century.

I have recently become cognizant of three remarkable cases in Cambridgeport, two of which I have the permission of the parties interested to place before the public for the general good of the cause. I will here give the salient points of the details, and the details can be gained of the case mentioned by any one so desiring:  
John W. Haines, who is a well-known business man, of unimpeachable character, has for the past few years been controlled by an intelligence purporting to be the spirit of Daniel Webster. Mr. Haines possesses a large and valuable collection of books, and he has presented an instrument well fitted for use by the excommunicated one who is alleged to control.  
Mrs. Dean (formerly Mrs. Fauce), a medium now residing in Sandwich, Mass., came in possession of a velvet vest which was once owned and worn by Mr. Webster; and in obedience to the spirit of Daniel Webster, she recently presented it to Mr. Haines. That gentleman, with a view to testing the claims of the spirit who controlled him, placed the vest inside a paper wrapper and took it with him to Mrs. Wilde, test medium of Boston, saying nothing to anyone of its origin, and giving the lady no clue to the object of his visit. Mrs. Wilde, when under control of her little spirit guide, said: "You have some dry goods with you." Mr. H. assented. A spirit purporting to be Mr. Webster then took possession of the medium and remarked: "You have my waistcoat there," and











**The Spirit Mission** Of Dr. Anderson the week has an admirable communication from one of our friends, Robert Anderson, and several interesting messages from individual spirits. Questions are answered regarding the "mediumistic" powers of undeveloped spirits—the "Barkers," of Kentucky, etc., and the Indian maiden Lolita furnishes a means of communicating with quite a number of "revelant" spirits—those who are unable to manifest as a distinct personality.















you; try to realize what you are asking of a Man  
 that when you call upon him to have faith in  
 honesty... He will tell you he has no use for  
 justice what he is in search of. Ask yourself,

lately test conditions becomes emphasized; because it must be apparent to a very indifferent observer that when such facts are admitted and acted upon, greater opportunity is offered for those who are

Lake Pleasant, Mass., June 25th, 1887.

The greatest crowd in a hen's life is made up of  
eggs and a ruckie. But eagles never crack open

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