

Thought, the Solvent of Her Problems.—SPIRITUALISM

NO. 699:

These my commands from day to day
Implicitly thou shalt obey.
—Boston Post

LETTER NUMBER FOUR

even, plunging her back into it and tried to escape. Why she burned her finger over so little, what fearful pain she suffered—and her whole body burning! Her eye-balls start, she presses her little head with her hands, and she would shrink out her terror and horror, but she fears to do so. Her father might whip her; her mother scold her; and so, at last, when her fears have exhausted her, she sinks to sleep and awakes in the morning pale and unrefreshed to go to school, and there the same ideas are repeated more or less. Sometimes the child gets to reasoning for herself, and her ideas are usually much nearer the truth than such teaching as she has received.

(To be continued.)

(Continued from fifth page.)

FAMILY GHOST

And would it be came to you for help while you in his physical body; he is none the less your fellow-man because he has for the time put off that garment of flesh. Speak to him kindly and ask what you can do for him; perhaps he can speak in reply, or if he cannot do that he may at least communicate his wishes by means of raps or signs; at any rate treat him as a friend, and not as a foe or a bugbear. Teach your children to regard such an occurrence as a visit from a dead man is perfectly natural, though rare; thus you will save them much unnecessary terror and give them an opportunity of one day helping some poor soul who sorely needs it, for all of us are brothers, the living and the dead alike, resting ever

The sphere of true religion is environed in the needs of the soul, and as spirit communion conserves these needs it unfolds the true religion. Moral philosophy teaches the relations of deeds to consequences—the appreciation of all that is good and true—a high sense of moral obligation—the duty of intellectual culture—teacher us

—Miller Purvis:

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In conclusion, bear in mind that postage on these ten premium books is about **ONE DOLLAR**, leaving this of

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OGGULT MYSTERIES.

WONDERFUL MANIFESTATIONS AT SPRING HILL, KANSAS.

Spring Hill, Kansas.—One of the most peculiar colonies of Spiritualists in the world is located in this little Kansas town. Spring Hill has become the Mecca for believers, and pilgrimages are made by persons from all parts of the United States to witness the unusual manifestations. Many of the residents fear at the members of the colony and think the whole thing is a fraud but they have never made an attempt to expose the work of the medium, W. W. Aber.

Spring Hill has been a Spiritualistic colony, after a fashion, for a good many years, but it is only within the last year that it has become far-famed among the believers. It is claimed by the members of the colony that the Kansas spirits are the most unusual in the things they create.

Two books have been published under the title "The Mediums of the Valley Beyond the Veil," the authorship of which is laid to the spirits. A third book is now said to be in preparation. These books were written on a typewriter by what are purported to be spirits, and the astonishing claim is made that the fingers of the "wraith" writes at five times the speed attainable by living persons.

There is a group of these spirit authors, according to the claims of the Spiritualists, and many have supposedly written for the volumes. There are a few spirits which write with lead pencils, and in some instances the mediums claim as many as 900 words per minute have been written.

The Spiritualists are making another claim equally as strange. They are exhibiting pictures alleged to have been drawn and painted by spirits. In many cases they bear a striking resemblance to the originals. A good many people regard the artistic feat as a hoax, and say that legerdemain figures in both the writing and the painting.

Work Began in 1888.

A Chicago woman, Mrs. Mary Irene Dye, who lives at Indiana avenue, in that city, has been here for several months collecting the "spirit" pictures. She lived with the Spiritualists for a long time. In talking with the correspondent of the Sunday Inter Ocean the other day she told of the inner workings of the circle. In her own words her story is as follows:

"The work began here in 1888 on Spiritualistic lines has since been shown to be a work of pure deception, yet accomplished upon this plan. The chief work has been the creation of three volumes of writings of materialized spirits, two of which are already before the public, while the third is now being prepared.

"J. H. Pratt engaged W. W. Aber, a psychic of peculiar and remarkable powers, to give what is known as 'materializing seances,' throwing open his house to all wishing to investigate this phase of the Spiritualistic phenomena without price.

"Later it was said by the spirit hand in charge of the work that it was designed by them to furnish matter for a volume elucidating the spiritual philosophy if the proper conditions could be furnished that from the mortal side. Soon thereafter a selection was made of the circle and the real work began. For a time this continued, when unavoidable circumstances so changed conditions that it was temporarily abandoned.

"After an interval of perhaps six years Mr. Aber's services were again secured, and work resumed, a part of the old circle being present with others added. In less than a year the manuscript for 'Rending the Veil' was completed. J. H. Nixon, of Spring Hill, has edited the matter given by the spirits.

"In this he has been assisted by Dr. E. J. Schellhorn, of Kansas City, Mo., who has accomplished a large amount of newspaper work and work in the interest and propaganda of spiritual truth.

Spirits Give Orations.

"Tuesday nights have been reserved for outsiders. Once when there were no strangers present it was decided to continue the 'intellectual work,' when two women gave brief orations to the secretary through the trumpet, speaking in whispers. Dr. Reed, who prepares the forms for visibility, rarely makes a good larynx for himself, so that his utterances are also in whispers, a fact that disappoints some, as his remarks to the materialized, stand in front of the circle, tablet in hand, and write from half a dozen to a dozen pages, hand them to the secretary, and disappear. At other times they speak their messages through a trumpet, and from notes thus obtained Mr. Nixon writes out the matter, assisted by his own special 'controls.' At the succeeding session he submits it for approval or correction to the mortals and spirits. The care with which this is done is surprising, not a doubtful word or phrase being passed without severe scrutiny.

Wrote at Terrific Speed.

"For the third volume a typewriter has been used quite largely, an expert from the spirit side operating the machine with great rapidity, often reaching a speed of 200 words a minute. Sixty words is considered fair speed for mortal hands.

"The dictator stands within the cabinet, but the operator stands in full view, persons often hearing the dictation when the machine gets out of order the spirit at once repairs it, and resumes writing in a few seconds.

"The written matter was given at the rate of from 300 words upward per minute, sometimes reaching the incredible speed of 800 words per minute.

"The cabinet is only a dark curtain, reaching from ceiling to floor, across one corner of the room, with only space for the medium's chair. There are two openings, one in front and one at the side. From the latter the spirits come

to get flowers from the secretary's table, or to talk with him through the trumpet, which is suspended from the ceiling.

"It has been my privilege to abide with these people for months, studying the phenomena without prejudice. There is no possibility of fraud here, and it would show madness or imbecility for one to attempt to account for what has been seen and heard.

"Mr. Nixon's definition of materialization is a long one. He puts it as follows: Spiritualism recognizes three things:

"1. That the real man or woman is a spiritual entity, called the spirit.

"2. That this spirit clothes itself with what is known as the human or carnal body, which the spirit uses as a machine to do its bidding.

"3. That permeating the carnal body the spirit constructs for itself another more refined body, dominated by the spirit body, which is invisible in the ordinary way of human perception.

"4. That death is the separation of the spirit body from the carnal body.

"5. That this death is the 'resurrection,' or being 'born again,' the second birth.

"6. That materialization, as applied to spiritual phenomena, is such temporary reincarnation of a human spirit being (called a spirit) as enables the spirit to manifest to human perception the same phenomena that it did before its so-called death or incarnation.

"7. That, as to the process of this materialization, certain elements and conditions are to be maintained, which are called the 'laws of materialization,' and which are generally required.

Electricity and Magnetism.

"The elements are principally electricity and magnetism, which permeate all things, material and spiritual, and especially permeate the human organism. A medium is a person who can generate electricity and magnetism in such proportions as is required to assist in the construction of temporary bodies. The circle is, or should be, composed of such persons as give off electrical energies in harmony with the magnetic condition of the medium and each other. A spirit chemist is a spiritual being, who is able to gather from the atmosphere, the circle and the medium, the proper particles of matter and electro-magnetism and compound and combine them into a specific, plastic substance, and of this plastic substance make around and within the materializing spirit a temporary body more or less perfect, according as the required conditions are more or less perfect.

"Thus fitted out with a temporary reincarnate body, the spirit is able to manifest its different functions, more or less perfectly, accordingly as its temporary body is more or less perfect. All such manifestations must be in the same philosophical manner as done when the spirit is in its mortal body.

"One can much better appreciate these phenomena after suitable preparation, intellectually and I have read Sargent's 'Scientific Spiritualism,' Judge Edmond's voluminous works, A. J. Davis' books, Crookes' works, Wallace's work 'Robert Hare's Spiritualism Scientifically Demonstrated,' and the three volumes written by spirits at Spring Hill.

Wraith of Edwin Booth.

"No more than a slight reference can be made to the subtle and wonderful laws discovered of late years, by and through which communication between the two worlds has been established. It is an indisputable fact which can be shown to any one of ordinary intelligence and perseverance. For instance, Edwin Booth appeared one night with such dress as he was at once recognized by those who were familiar with his personality. He gave a bit of Hamlet in his old style. A very large man came next. He was a Chinaman, evidently, but as no interpreter was present, record could not be made of his name.

"President McKinley appeared several times, and conversed freely with members of the circle, to several of whom he was well known, for instance, Colonel R. T. Van Horn of Kansas City, who was in congress many years. He was the founder of the Kansas City Journal, and its editor-in-chief for thirty years. He was an agnostic until converted to Spiritualism after the death of his son Charlie, who has been mentioned at the meetings. Colonel Van Horn has been interested in Spiritualism since he was a child.

"President McKinley hoped to give a message for the book, and I am told that he succeeded one night soon after, when I was not present.

"At times the spirits would retire into the cabinet, at others pass down through the floor. When the chin touched the carpet they would say clearly, 'Good night,' and afterward appear, at times, in the same way, reaching their full height in a few seconds.

"I have seen a spirit take a heavy, old-fashioned goblet filled with water and carry it several feet from the cabinet and give it to the medium, who was in a deep trance. No water was spilled, although the operation seemed awkwardly performed.

"A lame man appeared, using a cane, in crossing the room he made exactly the same effort to trip over the same effort. Far away came many times, and wrote a series of scientific articles, entitled 'The Origin of Life, and the Evolution of Form.'

"And old friend of mine, Dr. Adam Miller of Chicago, came to me several times, sometimes speaking clearly, and at others in a low, indistinct voice, disappearing into the cabinet, returning a moment later with his accustomed height, and by gently stroking his whiskers, he increased their length at least three inches, for I had complained of their abbreviated length.

"We were trying to sing one night, the human voice being more helpful to our visitors than the tones from the music box. We were overcoming as best we could bad colds and natural disability, when one of the cabinet controls, known as 'Beesie,' reproved us for lack of skill, and suggested a better selection of tunes. We have become much attached to 'Beesie,' who helped us untiringly in any difficulty that came up, and if she preferred ragtime music I had a word to say.

"Thomas Paine, who appeared, had a voice which would lead the Auditorium easily. He is a powerful spirit, some

appeared in his old-time garb, talking and writing as well as in his mortal days. I cannot speak of all the notable who have visited us, of the poets, authors, statesmen, and clergymen. We lately enjoyed a talk from Judge Edmonds, the great New York jurist.

Mr. House has been with the work from the first. Dr. E. J. Schellhorn, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Reed, and the late Mrs. Aber, Mrs. Maggie Newman, Miss May Cook and Mr. Simpson have been among the other members of the circle.

Medium Was Anchored Fast.

"I was present at several test seances. Mr. Aber would be in the cabinet with only his face in view. Above his head was a small aperture. His wrists were fastened and strings sewed to his trousers, then to the cabinet in floor or some other way as light as his hands. The room would be a racket of bells and tambourines and raps on the wall. When this part of the program was concluded Mrs. Aber took a handkerchief from each one, wringing them out of water, and asking us to hold them in order to charge them with magnetism. Then she would place them, one by one, on the medium's head. Inside of the cabinet she would be chosen to write an empty box on which to write. In a minute or less the handkerchief would be thrown out, with a message written upon it, or perhaps a face fully outlined.

"An open knife was placed by mouth of the spirit in Mr. Aber's mouth, and soon all heard the noise of the knife as the spirits cut the stitches and bands which held the medium. The flour in his hands was not disturbed.

"One of my sisters, Thankie, proved an excellent 'materializer.' She came at nearly every seance when I was present, at that rather distant place, but after much practice, with great power, twice she took the comb from my hair, after a few seconds replacing it as deftly as any mortal could have done it. On another occasion she was arranging some flimsy lacelike substance about her neck when Mrs. Aber suggested that she place it against my face, which she did at once. The substance was indescribable. One evening when Col. Van Horn was present, she came vividly; he remarked, after greeting her: 'Thankie, we used to dance once. Can not you dance for me now?'

"She caught her draperies in either hand and took several graceful steps, moving her head and body rhythmically while she had been dead for forty years. The spirits often patted my shoulder, and the touches varied. For instance, my husband's hand seemed much larger and stronger as he pressed it firmly upon my shoulder, while Thankie's touch was very gentle, as was that of many others who gave this evidence of their reality.

"An outburst of telegraphy with the key in a box of wood and slate was one of the most remarkable things I saw. The medium's hand lay on the top of the spirit operator took control of the key, writing very rapidly where no mortal hand could touch it. Unfortunately, no one present at that time could read the dots and dashes, but that telegraphy was accomplished without our aid is an undeniable fact.

"One evening there was present a man from the spirit world who had come in the hope of meeting his sweetheart who had been lost to him years ago. They were separated by strange circumstances that involved no blame on either side. A year or so ago she died. 'I was present at the lady's first attempt at materialization. She appeared very weak and tremulous but very happy to reach that she could see and hear her beloved, who was greatly overcome by her appearance.

"At every seance the lady made fresh trials, assisted by the kind helpers on either side of the veil, and ere long she was able to walk out of the circle easily, and hand to her friend flowers which were taken from a table. I never before witnessed scenes so tender and beautiful. By earnest request she tried to give him a kiss. She succeeded after several attempts, he obeying instructions not to breathe upon the materialized form. She could pass her hand carelessly along his neck, with apparent ease.

"I tell this by permission. It is to me an intensely interesting episode. I can not tell the name or location of the man, as persons are still in the flesh who would be pained by a revival of the tragedy of these lives. The man arranged for several private seances, inviting a few friends whose magnetic conditions were helpful to the young woman in her effort to reach her faithful friend. A message was dictated by her to the spirit typewriter, and a reply in long letter was prepared, and placed in the seance room, with a request to Doctor Reed that he and the band assist her in answering the letter in her native language. The next day the letter, with the fifteen pages of paper and received them. The guides said that it would probably take some time for them to secure the reply.

A Material Spirit.

"The lady came tripping lightly from the cabinet at a seance, with hands full of flowers, and approaching the man, handed them to him one at a time, the distance between mortal and spirit being not more than two feet. Her lovely golden hair was flung carelessly on either side of her face as she passed, and she was smiling and gave a bright living picture.

"One night the spirit of the great magician Hermann appeared and performed several interesting experiments for us. He created a beautiful rose from the atmosphere, dematerializing it afterward. He took a slender walking stick that chanced to be in the room, and twirled it with the tip of his thumb. The swirl of the air caused thereby was heard by all.

"A man came to visibility later, who was unable to speak, but he took the trumpet and moved it about rapidly, showing great thought.

Specter Thought Itself Alive.

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"You say that I am dead, and here I am alive," said he, indignantly.

"The secretary finally told him to go back into the cabinet and see Mr. Aber, saying that he was a medium and could help him. He wanted to know what a medium was. After some explanation (not sufficient, we saw later), he walked into the cabinet, where he began to talk. He said he was a medium, and that he had been made—trying to wake up here!

"The medium was in deep trance, his efforts were, of course, fruitless.

When he came back, the visitor exclaimed:

"That man in there is dead!"

"The hearers could not quite restrain their smiles. Finally, he accepted the situation and told us that he had just 'waked up,' but on investigation it was shown that he had been out of his body fifty years. He had perished in a burning ship, and the thing that he could recall was the cry of fire, when he was struck upon the head and lost consciousness. He said he was 'all mixed up,' but was assured that when he went away from the seance he 'would be much relieved, or 'feel better,' as we phrased it to him, his limited powers of understanding. The 'name' was at length given as Jerry Flynn.

"I have not yet told you of an Indian, Redfeather, who the non-controllers Mrs. Aber, and who is near always at the seances. As Redfeather can see both spirits and mortals, it can be readily understood of what assistance he is in difficult cases. He is a great favorite with all of the visitors, who remember him after they return home, for Redfeather's mail, sent to Mrs. Aber, is quite voluminous at times. His memory is phenomenal. On being questioned on this point, he replied that the children of his tribe, the Dakota, were chosen to drill in the line showed good memory, and the tribal legends and history were taught them by the old chiefs for safe keeping.

"Redfeather has artistic power of no mean quality, just now being much interested in pyrography, some admirers having sent him the necessary outfit for the work. He does not do the artist's work in the circle, as that individual is in full view, and chats 'continually in broken English as he works. A few nights ago he came to the desk for materials, and was speaking somewhat sharply to his child, who was supposed to be of course. After a few seconds the artist said, 'You can go now,' and in just fifty-three seconds he showed us the crayon picture of a small dog, which the Abers lost some years ago, and whose picture had been promised them. This dog was almost human. A jump, as he was called, was once recognized by the old circle, who knew him well.

Ghost of an Ancient Ruler.

"As the question of the continuance of conscious life in the animal world is now attracting considerable attention, this true tale may be of interest. A young man, who had been dead for forty years, the spirits often patted my shoulder, and the touches varied. For instance, my husband's hand seemed much larger and stronger as he pressed it firmly upon my shoulder, while Thankie's touch was very gentle, as was that of many others who gave this evidence of their reality.

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When he came back, the visitor exclaimed:

"That man in there is dead!"

"The hearers could not quite restrain their smiles. Finally, he accepted the situation and told us that he had just 'waked up,' but on investigation it was shown that he had been out of his body fifty years. He had perished in a burning ship, and the thing that he could recall was the cry of fire, when he was struck upon the head and lost consciousness. He said he was 'all mixed up,' but was assured that when he went away from the seance he 'would be much relieved, or 'feel better,' as we phrased it to him, his limited powers of understanding. The 'name' was at length given as Jerry Flynn.

"I have not yet told you of an Indian, Redfeather, who the non-controllers Mrs. Aber, and who is near always at the seances. As Redfeather can see both spirits and mortals, it can be readily understood of what assistance he is in difficult cases. He is a great favorite with all of the visitors, who remember him after they return home, for Redfeather's mail, sent to Mrs. Aber, is quite voluminous at times. His memory is phenomenal. On being questioned on this point, he replied that the children of his tribe, the Dakota, were chosen to drill in the line showed good memory, and the tribal legends and history were taught them by the old chiefs for safe keeping.

"Redfeather has artistic power of no mean quality, just now being much interested in pyrography, some admirers having sent him the necessary outfit for the work. He does not do the artist's work in the circle, as that individual is in full view, and chats 'continually in broken English as he works. A few nights ago he came to the desk for materials, and was speaking somewhat sharply to his child, who was supposed to be of course. After a few seconds the artist said, 'You can go now,' and in just fifty-three seconds he showed us the crayon picture of a small dog, which the Abers lost some years ago, and whose picture had been promised them. This dog was almost human. A jump, as he was called, was once recognized by the old circle, who knew him well.

Ghost of an Ancient Ruler.

"As the question of the continuance of conscious life in the animal world is now attracting considerable attention, this true tale may be of interest. A young man, who had been dead for forty years, the spirits often patted my shoulder, and the touches varied. For instance, my husband's hand seemed much larger and stronger as he pressed it firmly upon my shoulder, while Thankie's touch was very gentle, as was that of many others who gave this evidence of their reality.

"An outburst of telegraphy with the key in a box of wood and slate was one of the most remarkable things I saw. The medium's hand lay on the top of the spirit operator took control of the key, writing very rapidly where no mortal hand could touch it. Unfortunately, no one present at that time could read the dots and dashes, but that telegraphy was accomplished without our aid is an undeniable fact.

"One evening there was present a man from the spirit world who had come in the hope of meeting his sweetheart who had been lost to him years ago. They were separated by strange circumstances that involved no blame on either side. A year or so ago she died. 'I was present at the lady's first attempt at materialization. She appeared very weak and tremulous but very happy to reach that she could see and hear her beloved, who was greatly overcome by her appearance.

"At every seance the lady made fresh trials, assisted by the kind helpers on either side of the veil, and ere long she was able to walk out of the circle easily, and hand to her friend flowers which were taken from a table. I never before witnessed scenes so tender and beautiful. By earnest request she tried to give him a kiss. She succeeded after several attempts, he obeying instructions not to breathe upon the materialized form. She could pass her hand carelessly along his neck, with apparent ease.

"I tell this by permission. It is to me an intensely interesting episode. I can not tell the name or location of the man, as persons are still in the flesh who would be pained by a revival of the tragedy of these lives. The man arranged for several private seances, inviting a few friends whose magnetic conditions were helpful to the young woman in her effort to reach her faithful friend. A message was dictated by her to the spirit typewriter, and a reply in long letter was prepared, and placed in the seance room, with a request to Doctor Reed that he and the band assist her in answering the letter in her native language. The next day the letter, with the fifteen pages of paper and received them. The guides said that it would probably take some time for them to secure the reply.

A Material Spirit.

"The lady came tripping lightly from the cabinet at a seance, with hands full of flowers, and approaching the man, handed them to him one at a time, the distance between mortal and spirit being not more than two feet. Her lovely golden hair was flung carelessly on either side of her face as she passed, and she was smiling and gave a bright living picture.

"One night the spirit of the great magician Hermann appeared and performed several interesting experiments for us. He created a beautiful rose from the atmosphere, dematerializing it afterward. He took a slender walking stick that chanced to be in the room, and twirled it with the tip of his thumb. The swirl of the air caused thereby was heard by all.

"A man came to visibility later, who was unable to speak, but he took the trumpet and moved it about rapidly, showing great thought.

Specter Thought Itself Alive.

"One evening there came before us a spirit, who seemed so helpless in his utter lack of memory or realization of his present state that all were eager to aid him to comprehend that he had left his earthly body, but he was very slow to believe.

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