



TRUTH The PSYCHIC OBSERVER

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AUTHORITY
NOT
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FOR
TRUTH

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TEN CENTS

MY SON RETURNS!

A Vivid Account of How a "Dead"

Sailor Communicates With His Mother

I AM CONVINCED
"BUD" LIVES

By
MRS. A. BARTON CROSS
"Lilac Hedges"
Eatontown, New Jersey

He Proves His Identity



"BUD" CROSS

All my life I had regarded Spiritualists as a group of harmless neurotics or at best an assembly of religious fanatics. I had never attended a seance, as, in my opinion, such gatherings were for financial gain on the part of clever mind readers . . . or else all present were self-hypnotized.

There had been no particular grief or sorrow in my life, for I had lost both parents at so early an age that they receded far into the back ground of my thoughts.

Then came the war. The idolized son, "Bud", of this family was one of the earliest to enlist. He was wounded at Cavite in the Philippines . . . was captured by the Japanese and lay in Sternberg Hospital, Manila, . . . then began three years of torture for us all.

Ill-Fated Oryoku Maru

Through the attack on Manila, the later fall of Bataan and Corregidor, we did not know his fate at all. The Navy first reported him killed at Cavite, later missing and finally his status as a prisoner.

Mothers who read this will know the anguish which followed us day and night. They can understand the tears that fell on our plates at dinner time, when the thoughts of our "Bud's" table-spoon of rice, and spoiled fish heads, came to our minds.

Yes, our lad was one of the expendables who held the enemy for three months while we armed, or who paid the price for our folly in terrible imprisonment.

Finally, he was put aboard the ill-fated Oryoku Maru which was sunk by our own Navy. Escaping death this time, he was subjected to fearful treatment until his second transport was sunk by Navy Flyers off Formosa.

Gone Forever?

I write these details, so that you may know what preceded my visit to the home of a Spiritualist Medium, Rev. M. R. Wood of Long Branch, New Jersey.

That morning, the Navy telegram had come, telling us of our lad's death. I assumed he had died in the second bombing of his transport. My blessed son, just graduated from Harvard and ready to begin a life of usefulness. Gone forever! . . . Into the land of What, and for What.

As I sat in my living room reviewing the series of torture that he had undergone during these long three years, my heart seemed broken, and my mind lost all control.

Rushing out of the home he had

loved, I drove rapidly to the ocean pier, life was no longer to be thought of. I could not bear to meet my husband's sad eyes nor hear the heartbreak in his voice. I walked far out on the pier and looked into the water—so cruel—so insensate that water which had swallowed my poor battered son.

I determined to join him in death, when suddenly a name flashed into my mind—I know not why, I had never particularly thought of this woman previously, but the name, Mrs. Wood popped into my mind.

I Visit a Medium

People had told me long ago of her psychic powers and of her very sympathetic counsel to those in trouble. "Go to her!" I seemed to hear.

I tried to brush aside this thought as too childish to consider—what had I to do with a medium, a Spiritualist? Yet, unwillingly, I walked to the nearest telephone and looked up the lady's address. I would go and get this foolishness over with once and for all.

I drove to the lady's address. I pulled myself together and reminded myself that I must give no clue to this woman. I said to myself: "No tears now, no clue to this medium, so that a fraud may be perpetrated on you." Then I rang the bell.

Evidence Galore

Mrs. Wood received me pleasantly but somewhat blankly, as neither of us had ever seen the other. There had been no notice of my son's death, no one knew it, but Navy officials and I. The lady had nothing to work on at all. In her little church, we sat quietly. I was composed but quite unbelieving, — then she began to talk.

"Your Mother, Annie, is here. She bears a crucifix. She was a Catholic." The medium went on to tell me that my mother was unable to care for me in earth life

but that she came to me in my hour of greatest suffering.

These facts were true. My Mother died when I was three years old, she was a Catholic and her name was Annie. I hadn't thought of her for years. Continuing, Mrs. Wood said: "Now, your Father, William stands beside her and through their power, a third figure comes toward you."

Not Mind-Reading

There followed a minute of silence, then from Mrs. Wood: "Why my child, you have just lost a Son. He is terribly concerned over you and your condition of mind. He says he is all right,—that he went over painlessly as in a canoe on a glassy lake. He was greatly surprised to know his heavenly state—he had no warning at all. He did not suffer."

"Oh," I replied "that could not be. He was bombed to death—" Mrs. Wood replied quietly, "It is what he says". (Note! — three weeks later, I was told my lad had died of double pneumonia, induced by exposure—he slipped out of unconsciousness into eternity). That was certainly not in my mind at the time. Hence mind reading was ruled out.

Thank God . . . He Lives!

Continuing, Mrs. Wood said: "He is a handsome lad—he is an Ensign or some officer in the U. S. Navy. He shows me his cap. His face is long rather than round, serious expression, dark wavy hair. He loves you so. He is so concerned over you. He wants you to go at once on a trip to Florida or Carolina. He sends his fondest love to Duke—strange but it is how I hear it—and to his sister "R".

His sister's name was Rosemary hence the "R" and Duke was his pet name for his English father.

Mrs. Wood continued: "He turns and writes for me the word 'cross', perhaps he means you must bear this cross, as he does". "No" I answered, "his name and mine is Cross. It is a proof he offers. Thank God that he truly lives. I am convinced he is really in this room. Now I can go on living for his father and sister".

Not To Be Averted

Three weeks later my husband, a New York business man, made an appointment with this same lady, without giving his name. To him she gave proof of the presence of his English mother and father, long since passed into the Spirit world—she saw the robe about his uncle's shoulders—that robe belonged to a Bishop in the English Church. She brought a most convincing message from our lad to his father.

Prior to his going to battle, his father had told him not to be heroically reckless in battle and in reply, our lad said: "Dad, I could in no sense have averted what happened to me, I was in no sense reckless. It was my time to go. I did my best for you and my country. Now please the three of you go on bravely."

How could Mrs. Wood know

FACES OF THE LIVING DEAD

That Hotly Debated Phase of Mediumship

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY

The Mediumship of
WILLIAM HOPE

By
HARRY BODDINGTON

RARE SPIRIT-PHOTOGRAPH



Psychic Observer

This spirit photo was taken under strict test conditions. Harry Boddington bought his own plates, marked them, loaded the camera and developed the picture. The picture was taken in daylight against a plain red background.

Mr. Boddington said: "The normal sight saw only things material, but the sensitive plate proves we entertain angels unawares." The picture has been retouched for press requirements only."

Mr. Boddington's address is 17 Ashmere Grove, London, S.W. 2, England.

The spirit picture published on this page was taken over twenty years ago. It is a facsimile of my sister who had passed on four years previously. I was invited to speak at Glasgow and only two days before traveling I wrote William Hope offering to break my journey at Creve if he would give me a sitting.

Hope, famous medium of that day, replied immediately and asked me to bring my own plates. He had no time to prepare anything.

Moreover I have considerable photographic experience and was allowed to mark my plates; insert them in the slide; replace slide in camera; and after exposure was allowed to develop them on the spot.

Hope had never seen me before nor is there any earth photo in existence anything like the one here produced.

Met All Tests

Hope's method was to hold a preliminary meeting when the unopened packet of plates was laid upon the table in full sight of all. He then asked which plate in the packet should be exposed. The response was by means of table rappings. This requested that two plates in the center of the packet should be used.

I, therefore, entered the dark room, selected the plates indicated, loaded the slides and returned to my seat. The camera having previously been focused upon the chair. The first plate contained markings of no evidential value. The second was the success shown.

All the usual possibilities of interference were thus eliminated.

we are three? How could she have fore known any of it?

Later, my daughter went to see her. She wore her Wave Officer's uniform and was completely unknown to the medium. Mrs. Wood gave her the names of many Naval Officer friends identified them in an astounding manner. Next, she brought the name of her brother, Barton.

But this time, he came laughingly and with his most intimate friend who was an officer in the Navy and identified him by giving initials. He announced himself by saying "It's just Bud. Buck up Sis. I'm all right and you carry on with D and D. I'll be right in there with you. Fondest love."

"Duke" and "Duchess"

Bud was my daughter's pet name for her brother and the D and D stood for the pet names

Hope never touched the plates from start to finish. The intriguing point being the selection of the exposed plates from the center of the unopened packet. They were exposed in daylight and I carried them into the dark room. Hope merely pointed to the developing fluid and I poured it over the exposed plates.

Spirit photography is probably the most hotly debated phase of phenomena. It offers many possibilities of connivance but all this is eliminated when a clearly recognizable photograph is produced which has no copy in existence. Its results are unpredictable.

Conclusions

I have photographs taken inside a room which showed nothing of the wall on which it was focused but reveals the other side of the street as if the wall was not in between.

I have another in which three sitters are blanked out of the resultant photo and the fourth is clothed in a jacket she was not wearing at the time. This jacket was reposing in a cupboard in the house. But as there is nothing but the statements of the sitters to verify the facts I do not present it as evidence.

The net result of all my experience in psychic photography proves that the normal processes of photography are set aside. The camera is not used or specific normal effects would be included with the psychic picture. I can only conclude that spirit people develop a creative power which objectifies anything they clearly visualize and that they project this upon the sensitive plate in the same way as they project an impression into a clairvoyant's brain or show it as a picture for normal sight to see.

(Continued Page 4, Col. 5)

HAVE ANY Questions?

By
W. H. EVANS
84 Elton Ave.
Greenford, Middlesex, England

We have received from a correspondent a post card which deserves some attention. Our friend complains that as a seeker desiring to know the truth about *Spiritualism* he finds himself between two extremes: the enemies of Spiritualism on the one hand, and spiritualists on the other hand.

The latter, he asserts, are not willing to admit that "the country is full of incompetent mediums."

This is a very sweeping statement which I am certain is not true: I have never yet met a spiritualist who was not ready to admit that there are incompetent mediums. But the accusation is extreme, "the country is full of them" he says.

Now I wonder how many of the millions of the population of the U. S. A. are mediums? not one-tenth of one percent I expect. You see, this kind of criticism is careless and defeats itself because it makes assertions which cannot be proved. And if kindly critics fall into this error how much more likely it is that opponents will exaggerate?

A "Way of Life"

The fact is that the number of incompetent mediums compared to genuine mediums is small, but an exposure of a medium is news, and it gets over publicized with the result that an entirely erroneous opinion is created.

There are fraudulent mediums; unfortunately in a world where getting money counts as success there are some who are ready to exploit the most sacred feelings of the human heart to try and get dollars. Every genuine medium and spiritualist denounces this sort of thing.

True Spiritualism is more than psychic phenomena, it is a way

of life, a body of teaching and philosophy which upholds the highest ethical standards, proclaiming that only by living the good life can lasting harmony of being be found and maintained.

As to incompetent mediums we readily admit that such do exist, incompetent people exist in every walk of life. If the moral sense of the incompetent medium is weak, he may try to eke out a sitting with shrewd guesses. The place for the incompetent medium is the developing circle where he can have the training necessary to make him competent. But this depends upon whether he has a worth while mediumship.

Our correspondent goes on to say: "I cannot get an answer to this question: Why can't spirit controls tell mediums when fictitious people are enquired about?"

This may be answered by another question: What moral right has anyone to go to consult a medium with a lie upon their lips?

No "Terrible Flaw"

In ordinary life we should roundly condemn this sort of action, how, then, can anyone justify themselves in going to a medium to make an enquiry about someone they know does not exist? Is this supposed to be a test? Really it is the greatest stupidity and one finds it difficult to be patient with such actions.

There is no "terrible flaw" in mediumship, the flaw is in the moral integrity of the sitter who deliberately attempts to deceive the medium.

Such a sitter probably reasons like this. This person is said to be a medium therefore if he possesses any supernatural power he ought to detect any attempt to deceive. Thus a cloak of specious morality is thrown over a deceptive action.

It never occurs to such inquirers that deception may be met with deception; that the attempt to fool the spirits by folks here may be met by those of like character who will fool the sitter.

Spirits are human beings and are always ready to help us, but like us resent this silly attempt to deceive. This sort of treatment

REPORTS VISIT TO ICELAND



Psychic Observer
HORACE LEAF

reveals profound ignorance of mediumship, and it is time that people knew the law; we receive what we give. Truth elicits truth; deception elicits deception.

But mediums do protest that such people as are inquired for do not exist. If the mediumship is good, it generally uncovers such attempts to deceive. Mediumship does not exist to answer silly tests of this kind; it exists to give comfort to sorrowing hearts, to bind up the broken heart; to restore hope to the hopeless, and instill a lofty morality in the minds of men.

Mediums have a right to a square deal the same as other people, and no one has a right, even for test purposes, to attempt wilful and wanton deception.

Orthodoxy's Attitude

No doubt our correspondent will see the reasonableness of this and I hope he will conduct his enquiries in the right and proper spirit, he will then discover that there is a great truth in mediumship, while at the same time it presents us with many problems. He will then see that his question has not the importance he may now think it has.

Mediumship is a very wide subject and must be studied as a science, and due regard given to its philosophic implications. I see no reason why if a medium accepts a statement in good faith and acts accordingly, he should be condemned for what is really the sitter's fraud.

With our friend's protest about the attitude of orthodoxy towards Spiritualism I am in complete sympathy; but that attitude is slowly changing. The pressure of the continued work of spiritualists is having its effect. We shall soon be celebrating the centenary of our movement and that is a clear indication that it is based upon truth. A movement does not grow unless it has truth at its core. The queries that rise to our minds in the early days of our study clear away as we get a clearer grasp of it.

He exclaimed excitedly: "Who is it? Who is it?" I replied calmly: "It is my departed husband, and he does not wish me to sell this little pearl ring." Then I took the ring out of the package, put it on my finger, and said: "Very well, William, I shall not sell it, and now I will never part with it." Peace reigned, and we resumed our work.

As no one knew the significance of this ring but my husband and myself, I feel justified in inferring that it was HE who requested me not to sell it. My typist being present during this psychic incident, can attest to its verity.

HORACE LEAF SENDS GREETINGS FROM ICELAND

Icelandic Spiritualists Bound To All English Speaking People by the Deep and Sound Bonds of Love For a Common Cause.

Scientific Significance of Spiritualism in REKJAVIK

By
HORACE LEAF, F.R.G.S.

Iceland sounds a very cold place, but it is well-known that the name is a misnomer. Judging by what I am experiencing, it is one of the most delightful spots on earth, for, not only is *Rekjavik*, the capital, where I am now staying, a well-built, attractive city, it also seems to be inhabited by some of the most hospitable people.

I arrived at *Rekjavik* after one of the worst voyages for a long time, and was glad to set foot on shore. To arrive at a foreign country without a relative or well-known friend to greet one might well be a source of anxiety; but *Spiritualists* are, in truth, brothers and sisters the world over... bound together by bonds of spiritual knowledge and faith.

Evidently there is no fundamental difference between the various races of mankind, the principal difference being that of color rather than of head and heart. It is a fact, as I well know, after visiting many lands in my advocacy of *Spiritualism and Psychic Science*, that spirit-communion is much the same everywhere.

Hard-Thinking Icelanders

There is the further fact that human relationships are similar everywhere. Paternal, maternal, filial love and love of friend and neighbor do not greatly differ with localities. The savage and the civilized feel the same kinds of affection under similar conditions.

Remembering this, I felt satisfied that my loneliness would be dispersed by good-companionship as soon as I stepped ashore. My

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surmise proved to be correct, and soon I was among a group of smiling and delightful inhabitants of this isolated land.

Later on, I shall have occasion to refer to these good companions by name, and shall say something of the splendid manner in which they are forwarding the Cause of the spirit-world, in the hope of giving a more inspired and better ideal to their ambitious, hardworking, hard-thinking fellow *Icelanders*.

That they have won favor is obvious as most of the leaders of the Movement here are well-known and honored business people, as well as members of the political and scholastic world.

Rekjavik's Mediums

I have only held one seance since my arrival, as in their thoughtfulness our *Icelandic* friends are anxious that I shall fully recover from the strain that saw the vessel in which I travelled storm-tossed in an alarming manner. Such rough voyages are rare; but now that one can fly from *Scotland to Iceland* in five hours, such unpleasant events can well be, in future, written off.

The seance was successful, as *Icelandic Spiritualists* are not only sympathetic but also understanding. With them *Spiritualism*, beside having all the essential features of religion, has also a scientific significance, and they have not neglected to study this aspect.

For the benefit of other lecturers who may in future be invited to visit this charming country, let me place it on record that there is absolutely nothing to fear, except it be the feeling of embarrassment that comes from meeting so much sympathy and hospitality.

There are a number of mediums in *Rekjavik*, some of them with good public reputations, while others prefer to practice privately. Their labors have made it easier for those who may visit this land to follow more publicly in their footsteps.

My work will consist of lecturing on the science, philosophy and religion of *Spiritualism*, as well as giving public and private demonstrations of clairvoyance and psychometry.

I carried over to our *Icelandic* friends the Fraternal Greetings of the *Spiritualist National Union* of Britain, as well as those of the *London Spiritualist Union*.

It is my pleasant duty to return similar greetings from our *Icelandic Spiritualists*, who, while having no established *Union*, are bound to their British and American brethren by the deep and sound bonds of love for a common cause.

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SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE WHAT REALLY HAPPENS

THE TRUTH ABOUT TOMORROW

DORTCH CAMPBELL

You can receive answers to the questions that well up within your heart. You can receive true answers to that which you need to know to make you a more complete and happier man or woman. Whether such answers come from your *Guardian Angel*, or the *Guardian Deity* so profoundly explained by *Socrates* or from *The Knower*, the divinity that shapes our lives, is perhaps not so important for us to know, but by that knowing, you have a scientific foundation on which to build a better and happier life.

Men and women constantly hear voices. So confusing are those voices that you do not know whether the voices are true or false; you do not know whether you should obey or disobey those voices. But if you knew whence they came you would be better able to determine that which is true and that which is false.

Guardian Deity

Men and women who share perplexities with an *understanding friend* are uplifted. They benefit not only spiritually, as a result of this exchange of emotion with a friend, but in the act of communion there comes a better understanding of the problem that perplexes—quite often a solution for it. Cares of this world oft get heavy. We need this sharing with God and also with a friend whose love for us and understanding of us makes that act divine.

Mortals are watched over by that *Friend* who is your *Guardian Angel*. This is not only the legend but the law of our being. You share your burdens with the *Guardian Deity* of your life and in that sharing there is uplift and, more than the feeling of elation, a direction as to how to get rid of your burdens. You thus personalize your prayers. Those who in ages past have prayed to the *Saints* have unconsciously communed with their *Guardian Angels*.

That there is an influence for good in a manner apart from God's beneficence and yet of the nature of his love has been known by the spiritually-minded since the ancient days. Intuitively we know that we are divinely guided and protected. This guardianship is part of God's supreme law. For each of us there are many *Angelic Messengers* with one that watches closer than the rest. And in the confusions of life that *Guardian Angel*, the center of them all, stands ready to speak and aid.

Celestial Guidance

This does not mean that we must continually consult our oracles or read the stars and do what we are told to do. We must not submerge the will to that of others even if that other is a being higher than we are. But it is well to understand some of the sweet mysteries of life so that we can use our own wills for a good purpose.

The main object of celestial guidance should be to clarify the problems that perplex us. We would like to know whether we are on the right or wrong course. If our understanding of our problems is clearer we can make better decisions. We should not lean on

others; decisions make us strong, but we can find helpfulness when our mistakes are pointed out and we chart a new course.

Your *Guardian Angel* is able to greatly clarify the problems that perplex you. *Socrates'* *Guardian Deity* prevented him from making wrong decisions. To what extent *Socrates* owed his views on immortality and a future life to his *Guardian Deity* we do not know.

But *Plato's* explanation indicates that the Greek philosopher discovered a fundamental principle that should be known and cultivated by all. That fundamental principle is that we move and have our being under divine guidance; that this guidance does not come into our lives directly from God but indirectly through mediation of angels of heaven.

The Eternal Fiat

Divine guidance, or prevision, *Violet* told *Robert Dale Owen*, he relates in his book, "*The Debatable Land*." (*) is the complement of memory. Memory is half of a marvelous faculty—the ability to know what is best for us, even the gift of prophecy, greatest of all mystic faculties.

Mystics put much emphasis on the gift of prophecy. You ask for some of the conditions of life that will make you happy and they look ahead for you to find out whether you shall receive them. Unconsciously they search the Soul to know the truth about that for which you strive; they ask, for which you strive; they ask, "*Is this best?*"

Then they answer if it is the best, "*All will be well with you.*" Those who help mankind in any manner must always look ahead with the gift of prophecy. To know that all will be well clarifies a person's problem.

The *Eternal Fiat* has gone out that each person of and by himself must search the heavens for power, but if another can throw light on your decisions you have surely gained much that you could not do of and by yourself. Surely God helps those who help themselves. We do have to toil and think and ask, seek and knock to

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make ourselves worthy of his help. But how fine it is to know that we can get help outside or beyond our own puny labors.

"Memory," said *Violet*, "causes that which does not now exist, but which did once exist, to become as it were present. So this other faculty—let us call it prevision—causes that which does now exist to appear—like the past when we remember it—to be present."

The faculty of prevision, even of the ability to clarify the problems of another, is the privilege of a comparatively few, and it is possessed, if at all in the few, in different degrees — "sometimes only as a dim presentiment or premonition, sometimes as clear prevision," according to *Violet*.

Prevision, or the ability to clarify the conditions of life for oneself or another, though it is not common, is as natural a faculty as memory, according to "*The Debatable Land*" author, "and it may present to us quite as clearly and even more clearly than memory that which as regards time is remote from us. Our minds," the writer continues, "may under certain conditions anticipate more distinctly than they recall; for our own feelings in the present often mix less with previsions than with our recollections."

Divine Inspiration

Since divine guidance and prevision are linked with memory, why, indeed, can not one look ahead as easily as one looks back?

Time *IS*. Time is not *Yesterday*, nor *Tomorrow*. The Super-consciousness of God fills all space and is everything. Since the *Truth of God* is everywhere, the truth of any question you may wish to know about yourself or others, or anything you desire to know, including *The Truth About Tomorrow*, is ready to be known.

Intermundane as well as mundane powers crowd our environment seeking release for useful purposes. The most profound and soundest intellects in every century have approached and often reached the conclusion that there are Invisibles which influence mankind for good or ill.

"You, O, Ion," said *Socrates*, instructing the Athenian declaimer and rhapsodist, "are influenced by *Homer*. If you recite the works of any other poet, you get drowsy and are at a loss what to say, but when you hear any of the compositions of that poet, your thoughts are excited and you grow eloquent . . . It is thus that you are eloquent by science but through divine inspiration."

"Listening Loves"

The figure of *Confucius* towers beneath the Oriental sky. He was the greatest genii among the seers in that cradle of mankind from *Tibet to the Yellow Sea* and from *India and the Himalayas* to the hills of the *Celestial Empire*. Among sayings ascribed to him there is this remarkable passage: "An ocean of invisible Intelligences surrounds us everywhere. If you look for them you can not see them . . ." But, he added: "Identified with the substance of all things, they can not be separated from it. They cause men to purify their hearts . . . They are everywhere . . . above us, on the right and on the left. Their coming can not be calculated. How important that we should not neglect them."

The Universe is filled with *Intelligences* born of *Love* which progressively, tenderly, lovingly lead us and protect us. They are the *Listening Loves* of our lives. They are our *Guardian Angels*.

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Exciting Reading

As a boy, *Fort* was a naturalist. He collected and collated specimens of everything, living or lifeless, he could lay his hands on. As a young man he wrote novels. And then he turned his inquisitiveness to science—chemistry, physics, astronomy. He became, not a teacher of philosophy, but in himself one of the few true modern philosophers.

"I marveled," he said, "that anybody could be satisfied to be a novelist or the head of a steel trust . . ." And that excitement of his explains some of the excitement of reading *Charles Fort*. The more he studied, the more he found that there were hordes of data which didn't fit into the orthodoxies of science, and these excluded facts seemed to him of terrific importance.

Arch-Enemy of Dogma

He became a delver into maverels, ranging the universe in search of strange phenomena, the things nobody could explain. At intervals he gathered his findings into books, which he flung like bombs into the camps of scientific complacency. The resulting explosions are still reverberating . . .



CHARLES FORT

Fort, says *Tiffany Thayer* in the Introduction to this volume, "was the arch-enemy of dogma—not of science." He hated the closed mind, and he opposed it with facts, with argument, and with laughter.

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THE WATSEKA WONDER

ONE OF THE GREATEST SPIRITUALIST STORIES OF THIS ERA

Trials and Tribulations of the Medium Mary Lurancy Vennum

By

PAUL MILLER

99 Palace Road, Streatham
London, S. W. 2, England

At Watska, in the State of Illinois, there occurred a case of exchange of personalities for the purpose of curing a girl. She was under spirit care for four months while her body was inhabited by a "dead" girl. This case is well authenticated, is far better known to older Spiritualists than almost any other classic case, but so far it has received little attention outside Spiritualism.

Mary Lurancy Vennum was 13 years old when she fell the victim of cataleptic trances, during which she described the "dead." After these trances stopped, she suffered severe pain several times a day, and when the trances were resumed the pain stopped and she became clairvoyant. The child was argued over by the family, and they consulted their local minister who, with becoming charity of mind and unusual outlook, tried very hard to have her placed in an asylum.

Magnetic Passes

The girl was now a victim of obsessions, and the Vennums, listening to the suggestions of Spiritualist friends named Roff, called in a Spiritualist doctor, E. W. Stevens. In his presence the girl was controlled by a spirit of low intelligence who, after some time, left her body which fell to the floor. Stevens, who understood how to make magnetic passes, a form of treatment popular at that time, then contacted the sane, normal mind of Lurancy Vennum.

She answered his questions clearly, said she was in heaven, and knew that the spirit which had just quitted her body was

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ing which the "dead" would speak through this returned girl, adding a further mystery for the already mystified people of Watska.

It gave comfort to the Vennums and the Roffs, and others who sat with them. Only once during that four-month period of the interchange did Lurancy Vennum return. That was for a few minutes only when she looked wildly round, said: "Where am I? I was never here before," and then retired. Mary Roff returned a few minutes later. It is a fact that the Roffs and the Vennums had never met before Lurancy was taken to the spirit world for healing. They lived at opposite ends of the town, and had nothing in common.

Among the little evidential incidents emerging from the very full and well-authenticated account of the Watska Wonder are these. When the returned girl saw a head-dress which had belonged to Mary Roff she said: "Oh, there is the head-dress I wore when my hair was short."

Proof of Personality

Then, again she said to Mrs. Roff: "Where is my box of letters?" She had asked for a box containing letters and odd mementoes belonging to Mary, and while she was going through them she recognized with girlish delight little souvenirs of the past, and asked: "Where is the collar I tatted? Why did you not show me my letters and things before?"

The collar she asked for was worked by Mary Roff even before Lurancy Vennum was born! And so it went on, day after day, week after week, until there was built up one of the most interesting cases of Survival proved by the interchange of personalities. There is nothing to equal it in the records of Spiritualism.

As proof of her personality, and that it extended in scope beyond that of Lurancy Vennum's, Mary Roff told her family one day that they would have to watch her brother Frank during the night, though he was then in perfect health.

At two in the morning he became seriously ill with a spasm and a congestive chill: "Send to

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SHE WAS CALLED "QUEER"



Psychic Observer
MARY LURANCY VENNUM
Watska, Illinois

Mrs. Marsh's for Dr. Steven." But she was told he was not there. She insisted that he was, and when her father went to Mrs. Marsh he found that the doctor had arrived there unannounced the previous evening. Before the doctor returned with Roff to see to the sick boy, Mary had attended to him so well that the doctor said she had saved his life.

Still a further proof of Mary's identity was given when the Roffs and friends were holding a seance with a medium called Dr. Steel. Mary left Lurancy's body, entranced Dr. Steel, and gave many facts to show it was she, Mary Roff, who was speaking.

What She Knew

Day by day, said Mary Roff, the body of Lurancy Vennum was getting better. Soon afterwards she announced that it was completely restored to health. She told the Roffs the day and time at which the exchange would take place, and went round to neighbors and friends bidding them farewell. It was arranged that Mary's sister should be present when the change took place, and she should take Lurancy Vennum to Roff's office, and then to her parents' home.

Yet when the time came, Mary did not want to go, and her sister was on her way to Roff's office before the change was made. For a moment Lurancy returned and said she would not come back to her body permanently until they were almost at Roff's office.

So, Mary had a little while longer on the earth, walking with her sister along the road until they were nearly there, when Lurancy took up again her abode, saying she felt as though she had a very long sleep. Yet she knew she had not been asleep.

Medical Testimony

Roff took Lurancy Vennum, in her own restored body which had been inhabited by Mary Roff, for four months, back to her parents with whom she passed the rest of her life as a normal, healthy girl who became in time a mother.

There is medical testimony to the fact that she was never again the victim of fits. Mrs. Vennum said that Lurancy was perfectly and entirely well, and perfectly natural," and added: "Lurancy has been smarter, more intelligent, more industrious, more womanly and more polite than before.

"We give the credit of her complete cure and restoration to her family to Dr. E. W. Stevens and Mr. and Mrs. Roff. We believe that had she remained at home she would have died, or we would have been obliged to send her to the insane asylum. . . . Several of the relatives of Mary Lurancy, including ourselves, now believe she was cured by spirit power and that Mary Roff controlled the girl."

Her Transition?

Newspapers at the time widely reported the facts, though they could not explain them. The cure was permanent, and the spirit power which had aided her in her youth did not desert her in her womanhood, for her father says: "At the birth of her first child she was entranced. Her eyes were turned heavenward, a beautiful smile played over her face. The work of deliverance went on painlessly, and not until the new soul voiced its presence did she show any sign of consciousness' of what had occurred."

She then said: "What, what is that?" When she was informed it was her baby she said: "Is that so?" and was overjoyed to think that "the Father God should send an angel to stand between her and the agony which every mother-soul so well understands."

Amazing Facts

A few times after her marriage, Lurancy was able to sit with Mr. and Mrs. Roff, and again taking control of the body she had helped to restore to full health by residing in it for four months, Mary Roff would talk again with her parents. Now that is the story of the Watska Wonder, than which there is no greater wonder in all the amazing facts of Spiritualism.

The truth is that it is all done for a beneficent purpose which men cannot always see because they are so often blinded by prejudice and prefer the distortions of those who have another purpose to serve than the enlightenment of their fellow-men about the powers of the spirit and the good it does for all mankind.

"Cavalcade of the Spirit"

This story about the "WATSEKA WONDER," written by PAUL MILLER, was taken from his book, "THE CAVALCADE OF THE SPIRIT" (*)

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(*) Price \$2.75—order from Dale News, Inc., Lily Dale, N. Y.

GREAT CONWELL INCIDENT

(Continued from Page 4, Col. 4)

too eager to have us all know, that is, that "we have psychic and a spiritual body;"—besides, as the Apostle presumed nobody needed to be told, a "natural" or physical body.

Much Data To Prove

Here indeed, right in our own Scriptures we have had laid down for us the positive foundation for establishing the truth and validity of the modern religions of a true spiritual science and a true Spiritualistic science. For if man has these two psychic and spiritual bodies, distinct from his physical body, the whole cultus of psychic phenomena and a genuine Spiritualistic science is confirmed as not only possible and natural, but at the same time the crowning science of all sciences open to human genius.

It can be added, with much corroborative data ready at hand to prove it, that a more critical survey of the language of the New Testament will elicit many such "corrections," all tending to strengthen a Spiritualistic rendering of meaning.

The Baptist minister cited from the Bible Samuel's return to Saul and the reappearance of Moses and Elias on the Mount of Transfigura-

tion to talk to the illuminated Christ.

The Spirits Know Our World

A point of great evidential value in the preacher's observations in connection with his wife's recurrent visits was his testimony to the fact that "she was omniscient of all my affairs." She knew all that was transpiring in his daily life. Here is evidence of supreme value, testifying to the fact that those yonder find the veil that is alleged to separate the two worlds transparent enough to permit them a view of all that happens to them, even to reading our secret (?) thoughts.

They always seem to know what we are worrying over or are happy about. This would be because the "senses" of those psychic and spiritual bodies which both we and they possess in common are alert to catch what goes on in the worlds to which, severally, those ethereal bodies are equipped to respond. The only difference is that our psychic and spiritual bodies are for the time of our early sojourn overlaid with the denser physical envelope and theirs are not so handicapped. They are not circumscribed and limited as we are.

Where Is the Devil?

Conwell conjectured that some even of his ministerial brethren would come up with the old fundamentalist wheeze that such things "are the work of the Devil." As to this the rugged honesty of this strong human character impelled him to expostulate with the sharp rejoinder: "All I have to say to that is, that if the Devil is about I want to get a look at him. I'd give a lot to see him any time."

Conwell was not mistaken in his estimate of the depth of bigotry and religious superstition in which his brethren of the fundamentalist cloth were steeped. They did accuse him of being a tool of Satan!

What we might observe as to this is that if Satan uses such men as Conwell to corrupt the world, it is a pity his servants are so few! In slightly modified form this was to repeat the witchcraft delusion of early New England history.

The religion of a true Spiritualistic science must be one that rests on the bases of sound philosophy as well as on profound esoteric knowledge of the psychic and spiritual "principles" in man's constitution. For the "spiritual body" is the body of the Christ in man.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of Religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

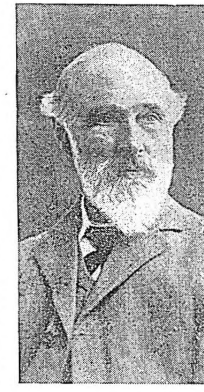
Constitution of the U. S. A.

SIR WILLIAM BARRETT

1845-1926

He was a Professor of Physics at the Royal College of Science for Dublin from 1873-1910, and one of the distinguished early physical researchers. Studies in mesmeric trance aroused his curiosity for the phenomena of Spiritualism.

He began his first investigations in 1874, two years later he submitted a paper on *Some Phenomena Associated with Abnormal Condition of Mind* to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The Biological Committee refused it and the Anthropological Sub-section only accepted it on the casting vote of the chairman, Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace.



Psychic Observer
SIR WM. F. BARRETT

The paper contained an exposition of the professor's experiments in telepathy, the existence of which he considered proved, holding that the method of communication is probably explainable by some form of nervous induction.

Systematic Investigation of Phenomena

As regards the physical phenomena of Spiritualism he was inclined to attribute the more marvelous ones, (levitation, fire test), to hallucination. But he declared that he himself witnessed raps in broad daylight, out-of-doors under conditions which made trickery impossible.

In conclusion, he urged the appointment of a committee for the systematic investigation of the phenomena of mesmerism and Spiritualism. Crookes, Dr. Wallace, Lord Rayleigh and Col. Lane-Fox seconded the motion but—probably owing to the sensation produced by the Lankester-Stade scandal—no action was taken.

In January, 1882, Professor Barrett called a conference in the office of the British National Association of Spiritualists. At this conference, a Society for Psychical Research was born.

During a visit to the United States in 1885, he gave the impetus to the foundation of the American S.P.R. His theory of hallucination as regards the greater psychical phenomena was soon cast overboard. He found mediums in personal friends who were above suspicion and he could carry out experiments in daylight.

Miss Florrie Clark and the Lauders, a professional photographer of Dublin and his niece, were mainly instrumental in convincing him of the error of his former theory. Every branch of psychical research claimed his attention, but his most important studies were published on the divining rod.

His final conclusions were summed up in a paper *Some Reminiscences of Fifty Years of Psychical Research* (proc. Vol. XXXIV, 1924) as follows: *There is evidence (1) the existence of a spiritual world, (2) for survival after death, (3) for occasional communications from those who passed over.*

Product of Human-like Intelligences

Philosophic reasoning convinced him first of the possibility of life of some kind in the luminiferous ether. "It is in harmony with all we know," he writes in *On the Threshold of the Unseen*—"to entertain a belief in an unseen world, in which myriads of living creatures exist. Some with faculties like our own and others with faculties beneath or transcending our own; and it is possible that the evolutionary development of such a world has run on parallel lines with our own.

"The rivalry of life, the existence of instinct, intellect, conscience, will, right and wrong are as probable there as here, and, in course of time, consciousness of our human existence may have come to our unseen neighbours, and some means of mental, or even material communications with us may have been found.

"The corollary of this reasoning leads, of course, to the supposition that the phenomena of the seance room are the product of human-like, but not really human intelligences but Professor Barrett has discovered in good time the wide gulf between philosophic speculation and experimental truth."

His books: *On The Threshold of a New World of Thought*, 1908, (Owing to the Cambridge "exposure" of Eusapia Paladino in 1895 for the publication of this book though printed was postponed for more than a dozen years) *Psychical Research*, 1911, *Swedenborgs The Savant and The Seer*, 1912, *On The Threshold of the Unseen*, 1917, *The Divining Rod*, 1926, *Death-Bed Visions*, 1926.

Encyclopedia of Psychic Science

For Books written by William F. Barrett, See Page 6, Col. 1



REV. RALPH A. WHITNEY, 1298 Bryden Road, Columbus (5), Ohio; lecturer, teacher, trance and mental medium; pastor of The Ohio Ave. Spiritualist Church (N.S.A.) of Columbus, located at 86 South Ohio Ave., with services every Sunday and Friday evening.

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"Search not in the heavens for signs of His coming, but ever within the sanctum of the heart will the Light of Ages appear, for He is the Love of the Father, the Light that comes to all men of Good Will, and by this sign shall all men know, The Light of Ages LIVES!"

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