

TRUTH
FOR
AUTHORITY
NOT
AUTHORITY
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

All my life i had regarded Spiritualists as a group of harm-less 'neurotics or at best an essembly 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

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 idol-

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 Höspital, 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" tablespoon 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

He Proves His Identity



"BUD" CROSS

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.

1 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 hought 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 feelishness over with once and for

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 reither of us had ever seen the other. There had been no notice of mv 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 unbelievirg, — then she began to talk.

'Your Mother, Annie, is here. She bears a crucifix. She was a Carholic." 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 show I hear i!—and to his sister "R".

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

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

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 Crewe 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 laughinally and with his most intimate friend who was an officer in the Nevv and identified him by giving initial. He announced himself by seving "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 s'ood for the pet names

(Continued Page 4, Col. 5)

RARE SPIRIT-PHOTOGRAPH



Psychic Obser

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 devight eaginst up flain 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.

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.

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# HAVE ANY **Questions?**

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 spir itualist 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 onetenth 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?

### .1 "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

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

By Evelyn F. Hamilton

1303 Ninth Ave., Seattle, Wash.

During World War I, when

there was a demand for diamonds

at high prices, I was not alert to

the situation, and so did not dispose of mine. When an increased

demand for them again arose dur-

ing our global war, I remembered

and disposed of my rings at a profit. As the diamond broker

also sold other jewelry, I looked

in my jewel case to ascertain what

husband had given me during a period of ardent devotion. I had

cherished it for this reason, but as

I had not worn it since his demise.

In it was a little pearl ring my

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. place for the incompetent medium is the developing circle where he can have the training necessary to make him competent. But this de-pends 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? 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 me-

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

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 always ready to help us. but like us resent this silly attempt to deceive. This sort of treatment

PEARL RING INCIDENT

REPORTS VISIT TO ICELAND



Psychic O 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 medium ship, 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 con-demned 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 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

# 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

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 wellbuilt, 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 To arrive at a foreign shore. country without a relative or wellknown 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 Iceland-

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 I have only need consisted 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 understand-With them Spiritualism, beside having all the essential fea-tures of religion, has also a scientific significance, and they have not neglected to study this aspect.

For the benefit of other lecturermediums 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 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 demon-strations 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 Spiritulists, 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.

# **NEW YORK CITY**

Eddie Mackey

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else I could sell.

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because it reopened the wound of his passing, I decided to sell it also. I packed it in a little box, pending the arrival of my typist, an elderly gentleman, who agreed to deliver it to the broker on his way home.

When he came we immediately set to work on my manuscripts, the little package with the ring lying on the table beside us. In the midst of heavy concentration I was interrupted by an invisible presence at my left side, and my husband's voice said distinctly, but inaudibly, "Evelyn, don't sell the little pearl ring."

He repeated the request twice. My typist's attention was diverted from his work by the awareness of an invisible presence, unknown

He exclaimed excitedly: "Who 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 sell ints tittle pears 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.

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# SPIRITUAL GUIDANGE **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 anl 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 scienfoundation on which build a better and happier life.

Men and women constantly ear voices. So confusing are hear voices. 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 Diety

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 un-derstanding of the problem that perplexes-quite often a solution for it. Cares of this world oft get 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 com-muned 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 of days. Intuitively we know that we are divinely guided and protec'ed. 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 cul-tivated 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 \( \chi \) 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 srive; 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 ont do of and by yourself. Surely God helps those who help them-selves. We do have to toil and think and ask, seek and knock to

(\*) Used copies, \$3.50 obtainable from Dale News, Inc.

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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 ossessed, 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 clarifly 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 recallings.

#### Divine Inspiration

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

Time IS. Time is not Yesterday, nor Tomorrow. The Superconsciousness 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 not by science but through divine inspiration."

## "Listening Loves"

The figure of Conjucius 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 sep-arated 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 philosphers.
"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 bookfuls 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 mavrels, ranging the universe in search of strange phenomena, the things nobody could explain. At in-tervals he gathered his findings into books, CHARLES FORT which he flung like bombs into the camps of scientific complacency. The resulting explosions are still reverberating . . .

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.

"Reading Fort is a ride on a comet," Maynard Shipley wrote in his review of Lo! in The New York Times: "if the traveler return to earth after the journey he will find, after his first dizziness has worn off, a new and exhilarating emotion that will color and correct all his future reading."

## Ideas That Are Colossal

Theodore Dreiser called Fort "the most fascinating literary figure since Poe," and a reviewer wrote in Vogue: "You may laugh at a good deal of this book. The author, however, has carefully laughed first and will in all probability laugh last. Every now and then you will come across an idea that is colossal ... and before long, you will be invaded by some edge of the cosmic excitement of the author, the intoxication of the greatest sport on earth, such a curiosity and terror as Columbus must have felt when his ships dropped Spain below the horizon. In Lo! you are in on the process and method of Discovery.'
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# THE GREAT CONWELL INCIDENT

# ORTHODOX PASTOR'S TERSE COMMENTS ON HIS PSYCHIC EXPERIENCES

**Enlightening Discussion of** Psychic and Spiritual Bodies.

By ALVIN BOYD KUHN, Ph.D.

The first thing that Dr. Russell H. Conwell, eminent Philadelphia clegryman, took up in his interview with the newspaper reporter concerning the visitation of his "dead" wife to his bedside every morning for six months will meet with the hearty commendation of every Spiritualist.

There is needed at all times the candor and honest good sense embodied in his statement to his in-terviewer: "I believe that the present interest in psychic phenomena is evidence that humanity has reached a plane where facts concerning the spirit world and the future life may be disclosed. Sincere investigation into psychic mysteries is entirely justifiable. We should all be open-minded on such subjects."

One might comment on this to the effect that if there had been such open-mindedness to psychic, metaphysical and spiritual realities of human experince over the centuries of Christian history in Western world, that history would not record the appalling story of religious fanaticism, bigotry, superstition and inhuman belief in diabolism, possession, witchcraft and hallucination of a thousand sorts that mark this chapter of world history as the all-time low point in human delusion, credulity and cruelty.

### Our Guardian Angels

It is a sad commentary on our humanity that through insidious priestcraft and ignorance the highest gifts of the spirit manifestin exceptional individuals ing should be put down as the foul deception of the Evil One, himself a non-existent bogie and Frankenstein of ignorant religionism.

From the spontaneous and unsolicited nature of his wife's return Conwell felt impelled to say, "I do not believe we can call back the departed. I think God sends them to us. I know we all have ministering spirits about us. Each of us has a guardian angel."

This falls with remarkable har-

#### Would you like to know

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(P-204)

mony into line with the teaching of the great philosopher Socrates, who declared that each mortal has his guardian angel, or, as he phrased it, his "possessing daemon," a word which has been traduced by later ignorance and perverted notions of angelology which arose in the Medieval Christian Church into our word "demon," with the ordinary connotation of which it has nothing in common. Socrates affirmed that this inner spirit or "daemon," which really means "divinity," often warned him against courses of action he was contemplating, and that whenever he obeyed its intimations eventuated, but that evil followed whenever he was so foolish as to disregard its negative be-

#### Earth the Place of Destiny

Then the devout minister gives expression to an opinion that perhaps sounds a triflle bizarre to the general run of Spiritualists, but is at least worthy of consideration. He said: "The reason the Lord doesn't want us to get too much of a glimpse into the Kingdom of Heaven is that we would never be satisfied to remain here and do our work . . . We are here for a certain purpose and . . . if we knew too much about the bliss of Heaven we would all try to die immediately in order to enter that haven of blessedness."

He says that we are here to help humanity develop into a perfect state, and to do this by evolving and helping others to evolve, ' healthy body, a pure character and a clear mind." And he affirms that "in helping humanity we fit our-selves for the highest place in the spirit world."

This last statement should be ingrained in the mind of every Spiritualist as an integral part of his basic philosphy. Studies in his basic philosphy. Studies in psychic and occult science bring out much that tends to confirm Conwell's astute observation on this point. More religions than one have in the course of their historical unfoldment or their degeneration shifted the prime locals of true values from earth to heaven.

# Spirit Consciousness

Ignorant religionism inclines to fall back on the common notion that the transition to heaven at "death" will leave all earthly and sensual dross behind and that the soul will be transformed into a thing of angelic purity and float about bathed in a glow of seraphic peace and blissfulness. We are well aware of the wide prevalence of the doctrine that a death-bed conversion will entitle even a lifelong reprobate to an eternity of unbounded joyousness.

Conwell saw clearly that the heaven life, so to say, was a reper-cussion in spirit consciousness from the experience and quality of the earth life. The sure guarantee of bliss in heaven was character built up on earth. The great moral law was not sloughed off or escaped by the mere dropping of the material body.

Conscience and character were stages reached in the development of immortal souls and were the attributes or possessions of the soul itself. And if it remains the same soul after "death" as it was before —and it is surely entirely illogical to presuppose that it suddenly comes a new and different entity by the transition — then it con

tinues to hold the same character which it had evolved on earth, though functioning now under conditions vastly different. Essentially it must be regarded as the same soul, simply freed of its earthly vessel. Since it continues to live, but no longer has its physical vehicle of sense and expression, its life there must be one of greater freedom, ease, lightness and buoyancy than was its existence while weighted down with the incubus of the body.

### Heavenly Bliss Won on Earth

It surely enjoys an immensely heightened vigor and vividness of consciousness. The scientific oc-cultists call it fourth dimensional. in contrast to the three-dimensional consciousness to which we are limited in the body. Those who have been momentarily over in that world and returned, as in drowning and resuscitation. trance consciousness and in sleep. tell us that this heightened type of consciousness is experienced in that realm.

It will align Spiritualist philosophy with the highest teachings of the deepest esoteric religions of the world to regard the quality of the earth life as determinative of the quality of the soul's happiness in the spirit world. We are told of spirits there who are not happy. Yet all religions are as one in asserting that heaven is the place of unimaginable bliss.

The common tradition of humanity is that all woes are extinguished "over there." "To end it that is, all the misery, pain, hardship and unendurable conflict of earthly careers, is the invariable expectation of the suicide. And false philosphies of the religions with regard to heaven are responsible for the suicide motivation, largely.

#### Philosophy of Spiritualism

Spiritualist philosphy can make a massive contribution to the needed enlightenment and steadying of humanity if it will take a firm stand on the clear implications in this matter. The moral tone of all world action will be elevated and sanified if it can be made a principle of general understanding that righteous conduct and spiritual character here are the indispensable conditions and requirements for heavenly ecstasy.

For values that have fled in mistaken conception from earth to heaven must be brought back to earth, since earth is their incubator and cradle. It will be the dawn

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Psychic Observ Rev. Mary Reva Wood Trinity Church of Spiritual Science 111 Washington St. Long Branch, New Jersey

of a happier day for humanity when it is at length recognized with full force that no bliss will be enjoyed in heaven that has not first een won on earth! And this realization will constitute one of the stones in the building of a sounder and more stately structure of a truly philosophical Spiritualist re-

#### Spiritualnsm To Grow

Conwell continues with some further reflections that will elicit a cordial seconding from all Spiritualists. He says: "As humanity develops the Lord reveals more and more of the mysteries of sci-ence and religion."

This is truly enough said, since it is humanity's development that makes it possible for the Lord to reveal more and deeper aspects of the wonders of his truth and of his being. "And we are now coming into the time when we are permitted to know more of the psychic mysteries than ever before, because we have developed our powers for investigation. As power to appreciate grows, the spirit world will open further."

In line with this forecast many are predicting now that the perfecting by modern scientific genuity of magnetic instruments of such sensitivity that the currents are affected by the minute mineral content of the dirt under the operator's finger nail, will shortly enable us to establish precise contact with the spirit world.

### Psychic and Spiritual Bodies

Science, the minister said, has proved St. Paul's affirmation that we have a natural and a spiritual body." In this reference we deem it a matter of linguistic importance point out that the translation of St. Paul's words in the New Testament readers who have not made some special academic research into the text or who are not familiar with the Greek from which the English was translated. to be told that the Greek word which has been translated "natural" in the verse quoted is in reality the Greek word which means 'psychic."

This can not be questioned, Inis can not be questioned, since the word spells in Green Greek psychikon (and the "k" becomes a "c" when taken into English, and the "on" is just the neuter ending, the word then reducing to exactly psychic in our language. physiokn, which is our "physical." It is within the bounds of possibility that some ancient The Greek word for "natural" copying a manuscript, exchanged unwittingly psychikon for physikon.)

What the Apostle is really telling us then is something that the orthodox religious interests, even as early as the year 1616, (when the Bible was translated by the King James committee) were not

(Continued Page 12. Col. 2)

# MY SON RETURNS

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

our boy had for me and my husband, the Duke and the Duchess, And the words 'fondest love' were a customary expression of Bartons.

Should I remain a scoffer and unbeliever-I to whom Spiritual-i m brought life, comfort and a blessed re-union with a fine and noble son? No. I could not.

#### No More a Scoffer

I must pass this message along to other Mothers who perhaps have not yet found the gateway to other world where they can be reunited with their beloved boys who have made the glorious

What possible explanation could there be, except that this was a true revelation? There could be none other. The medium, Mrs. Wood did not know me and most certainly my story could not have been known to her because I went to her as I related earlier in this article—immediately after having received the telegram from the Navy which announced my son's death.

It has been hard to write this and I pray it may be of comfort to other mothers who grieve as I do.

Your lads truly live and you will see them again-that is what I. a scoffer have been told and that is what I now believe.

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# REINCARNATION TRUE or FALSE?

By W. J. FARMER Helston, Cornwall, England

There is no doc'rine known to me that has less evidence to support it than that of reincarnation.

A few people profess to remem-ber certain things that happened to them in a previous life or to recognize certain scenes never contacted in this present life, but, in my opinion, all these memories are explicable by clairvoyance or traveling in the astral body, or by having seen views of the places mentioned in some book of pic-tures; the fact is, that I have never myself in a long life (78 years) contacted anyone who had any such memories.

Now, were reincarnation a fact, can it be claimed that we survive in a way that matters to us with our memory gone? Would it not he a case of real death of the form er individuality? Why do we wish to survive at all?

#### Is It Necessary?

Is it not our real desire, dictated by the wish to be again with the loved and lost and to continue to progress in a body free from liability to all manner of evil direases, that causes us to want to survive? Who would wish to come Sback to this very imperfect earth life from a higher state of evolution?

We are told that it is necessary to reincarnate in order to experivarious conditions of ence earth life and to continue to eliminate our previous defects. Why should this be necessary? Is there not scope for all to be fully developed in a higher world?

My experience is all against this

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theory of moral advancement by several reincarnations. Were the theory correct, we should already Were the be a race of angelic beings, where as after centuries of "supposed" reincarnation, the world was never more evil than at present, we have had the most horrible deeds in the

Some mediums have supported this doctrine of reincarnation but we must set aside all such revelations, for the mind of the psychic colors what comes in such spectacular matters and, for my own part, I build on nothing but statements that can be factually proved. When I say proof, I mean proofs of identity, et cetera.

#### Where's the Edience?

At times, I discount them all and think with the writer of old: "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the hearts of men to declare what good things the Father hath prepared for them that love Him.

If there is any such revelation other than that from the medium's mind, it is safest to take them as symbolical, not actual, and to be content to have it proved to us that we can survive and progress in happier conditions than are possible in our first stage of life.

We are also told that we have always existed and if we have not we are finite as regards our lives There is no evidence of this; at I have found none because it only makes sense to me for a created being to be endowed with eternal future life. Why not? Is anything impossible? That seems not contrary to our reason altogether.

Reincarnation is not supported by the evidence. I will not say it is impossible but certainly it is not logical to accept it and if true, it would be an added fear of con-ti ual return to the treadmill of carth with its bereavements and sorrows. This may be inevitable to start within our lives but not nccessary or desirable forever.

No one is justified in teaching copressing doc rines in regards to cur future unless there is actual fact to prove them! I believe in the eventual future happiness of everyone. Not one of us deserves more than another and the greatest of sinners here, is as much to be pitied as blamed for he misses the hest in life.

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Poschic Observer, Sept. 10, 1946

He Accepts Ministry of CENTER OF PSYCHIC SCIENCE At Buffalo, N. Y.



. MACDONALD, ROBERT J. Trustee for the National Spiritualist Association, has been appointed minis-ter for The Center of Psychic Science, Buffalo, N. Y. Regular Sunday services will begin September 15th in The Chinese Room of Buffalo's Hotel Statler.

Rev. Macdonald was formerly pasto. of The Plymouth Spiritualist Church of Rochester, N. Y. For the past several years, he has been Vice President of years, he has been Vice President of Lily Dale Assembly at Lily Dale, N. Y., and served as Chairman during all sum-mer services held in the auditorium.

The Board of Directors of The Center of Psychic Science, Buffalo, N. Y.: President, George Cloughly; Vice President, Warren Walker; Secretary, Betty Possehl; Treasurer, Joseph Bies; Trustees, Viola Osmond and Mrs. B. Clark.

# FAMOUS MEDIUM'S SCRAP BOOK

By FRANCIS LEON

I have just been looking through the Scrapbook of a medium to whom W. T. Stead in a letter written from his office in Kingsway, in October. 1909, expressed his "sin-October, 1909, expressed his cere gratitude for the invaluable services you have rendered to Julia's Bureau," and said "I have told everyone there was no me-dium in London who was so trustworthy, and so accurate as your-self."

The medium, who for over fifty cears collected and preserved the letters and newspaper cuttings that fill this large volume, was the late J. J. Vango.

In these pages we meet again most of the mediums of bygone times; we see Mr. Stead in the prison dress of which he was al-ways proud, for it was a memorial of his campaign against the White Slave traffic; we read letters from novelists and psychic researchers as wide apart as Florence Marryat and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: and we are reminded of the number of seances Queen Victoria had with R. J. Lees, and of the spirit messages she received from the Prince Consort.

### "No Message" from Andree

When anxiety began to be felt in August, 1897, about the fate of the Swedish Explorer, Andree, had started the previous month from Spitzbergen in a balloon for the North Pole, the Evening News sent a reporter to Mr. Vango to see if from the spirit world he could get any impression of what had happened.

"The balloon is no longer in the y," he said, "The men in it have been so cold they could not manage it. Their fingers lost their power. Wait; not only fingers, but hands, arms, feet—all. They are dead, their bodies are in a sitting position, quite dead, you will get no message."

And no message was received for thirty-three years. It was August 6th, 1930, before Andree's body, fully dressed, was found in a coating of ice on White Island.

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Number One Hundred Ninety-two

Devant's and was at one time

Court magician to a Sultan of

Mr. Warren originally went to

Mr. Vango believing he would dis

cover, not the truth of survival,

but some trick to support the cam-

evidence that, as he wrote, fully

satisfied him that 'there is a life

beyond this and that the dead can

and do return and communicate

Part of Mr. Warren's perform-

ance as a professional conjurer

had been to expose Spiritualism,

but he told Mr. Vango: "You have

so convinced me of the genuine-

ness of your mediumship that I

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ness of your means can do so no longer."

"Prediction"

Instead, he had evidence after

paign against Spiritualism.

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Near him lay another body also well preserved, and a book of observations marked "Andree's Polar Expedition," one of the last entries in it bearing the date 18-7-97 and the position 83 de-grees North, 32 east."

Stage Full of Unseen Actors

Turning again the Scrapbook's pages we are reminded of another experiment I had the privilege of arranging for Mr. Vango. On many occasions, he told me, he had seen at the theater spirit forms helping the actors in their parts. An actress, herself a Spiritualist, once informed him she could never play well unless she knew her spirit guide was 'on the boards" with her

In "The Invisible Foe" he had watched, he said, an amazing per-formance—the spirit of *Sir Henry Irving* and his son "H.B.' both playing the same part, one visible only to the clairvoyant.

Maeterlinck's "The Betrothal." as being played at the Gaiety Theater at the time he told me this and I suggested he should watch performance for the book of his Reminiscences he was writing. What he saw was a stage more crowded with spirit people than he had ever seen before.

All the characters from the fairy tales were duplicated by spirit children. He noticed too, that Gladys Cooper, who was playing a leading part, had at racted a very beautiful spirit, draped in white, who was wearing a dazzling five-pointed star in her hair Other spirit people in fascinating costumes turned the stage into a most glorious sight for the clairvoyant.

As the curtain fell on the last scene the spirit actors arranged themselves in such a way that the tiny children came to the front with the mothers at the side, then those in fancy dress who had danced in the ballet and at the back the remainder of the players who had taken part in the perform-

The final words spoken by the chief character added to the deep impression made upon the medium: "It is our secret; yours and mine."

Maskelyne Magician Convinced

Several letters in the Scrapbook are from John Warren, a wellknown illusionist who often used to be seen at *Maskelyne* and

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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 Watseka, 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 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

Magnetic Passes

The girl was now a victim of obsessions, and the Vennums, listen-ing 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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sorry for what she had done. Dr. Stevens suggested that if her condition was such that she could not control, then she should seek more intelligent spirits. This enlightened man persevered with his treatment, which to-day would be called by a number of fancy names starting with "psycho."

Bigots Disappointed

Lurancy then said there were about her many spirits ready to help, but they preferred it to be done through Mary Roff, whose father, Asa Roff, was in the room. He declared that Mary was his daughter, and that she had passed over 12 years before. He said they would all be glad if his daughter would co-operate, and he explained that she used to suffer from the same kind of attacks that so sorely troubled Lurancy.

Then the interchange of personalities took place. Mary Roff came back from the "dead," and went to live with her father and mother as their daughter again, but using the body of the afflicted Lurancy Vennum. Well, the Vennums and the Roffs had to face all the hostility of the place and their time.

do not know that, were such a thing to happen to-day, there would not be the same curiosity, the same excitement, and the same hostility. Perhaps that is why the spirit guides behind the case did it. for it was a certain way to provoke interest and argument, and when the cure was effected the experiment was justified, the bigots were disappointed, and the asylum did not receive another patient, as the local minister wished.

Mary Roff's Return

This is what the local Methodist minister, called Baker, said to Lurancy Vennum's father: "I think you will see the time when you will wish you had sent her to the asylum." He appears to have been a kind of recruiting agent for asylums.

Then, a relative, with the charthat often afflicts relatives when anything unusual happens, said: "I would sooner follow a girl of mine to the grave than have her go to Roff's and be made a Spiritualist."

How did the returned Mary Roff behave in the body of Lurancy Vennum? She knew all the people Mary Roff had known so well. But she treated as strangers those whom Lurancy had regarded as friends.

Those whom she had known by name while on earth-friends, neighbors and relatives-she still knew, and called them by their proper names. She called their attention to hundreds of incidents and things with which she had been familiar. She was a continual witness to the teaching and truth Survival, and every day evidence that she was indeed Mary Roff returned.

**Evidential Incidents** 

Not once in the whole four months did either the Roffs or the Vennums doubt the change—but though the voice, the tongue, the recollections and preferences those of Mary Roff, the body was still that of Lurancy Vennum. This girl, Vennum, had been an excelent medium, and the Roffs asked their daughter whether it was possible for her to go on with that

She readily agreed, and many evidential seances were held dur-

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

It gave comfort to the Vennums and the Roffs, and others who sat with them. Only once during that four-month period of the inter-change did Lurancy Vennum return. That was for a few minutes only when she looked wildly round, said: "Where am 1? 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 turancy 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 Watseka Wonder are these. When the returned girl 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. off: "Where is my box of let-Roff: "Where is my box of letters?" She had asked for a box containing letters and odd me-mentoes 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 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 would have to watch her brother Frank during the night, though he was then in perfect

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

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Psychic Observer
MARY LURANCY VENNUM
Watseka, 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 Laurancy'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 getting better. Soon afterwards she announced that it was completely restored to health. She told the Roffs the day and time 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.

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 youth did not desert ner may womanhood, for her father says:
"At the birth of her first child she was entranced. Her eyes were 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.'

"We give the credit of her com-

plete 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."

She then said: "What, what is When she was informed it was her baby she said: "Is that 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 residin it for four months, Mary Roff would talk again with her parents. Now that is the story of the Watseka 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.

"Calvacade of the Spirit"

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

Aside from the "WATSEKA WONDER" Story, this book contains chapters: Mme. D'ESPER-ANCE, The "SHADOW" Lady; CORA L. V. RICHMOND, Oratory from The Beyond; ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Spiritualist; The STAINTON MOSES, The Moses of Spiritualism; DANIEL DOUG-LASS HOME, He Walked with Kings; DR. NEVILLE Whynant, -Confucius Solves a Mystery; GERALDINE CUMMINS, The Gospel Comes to Life; GEORGE SPRIGGS, A Spirit Posts a Letter; Glastonbury Abbey, or Vandalism at Glastonbury; W. T. PARISH, The Healer, or "MIR-ACLES" of Spirit Healing; ETTA WRIEDT, Detroit direct-voice medium, or Gift from Queen Victoria; DR. CARL WICKLAND, or He Drove Out Devils; MARG-ERY CRANDON, or The Eighth Wonder of The World; The Chaffin Will Case, or Where there's a Will . . .; JOHN MYERS, or The Camera does not lie; SILVER BIRCH, or The Wisdom of The Spirit; SIR WILLIAM CROOKES and "FLORRIE" Cook, or Tests without end; and a splendid chap-ter on PAUL MILLER'S conclu-

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

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Psychic Observer, Sept. 10, 1946

My Visit to Silver Belle

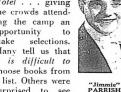
During the summer months, July and August, it is quite difficult for me to leave my office. Attending Psychic Observer book shoppe at Lily Dale coupled with my other duties, occupies ten to fourteen hours of each day. Even so, Mrs. Pressing and I made a motor trip to Silver Belle Spiritualist Camp this summer.

Silver Belle is located in Ephrata. Pennsylvania. between Reading and Lancaster. Two hundred and ninety miles from Lily Dale by motor: the trip can be made in eight or nine hours with easy driving. The roads are in perfect drive condition and the scenic through Pennsylvania will surprise you. Briefly, you travel from Lily Dale to Jamestown, N. Y., cross state line to Warren, Pa., then to Kane. Johnsonburg. St. Mary's, Clearfield. Port Matilda, State College. Lewistown. Harrisburg, Hummelstown - then route 322 about 20 miles to Ephrata.

Our principal reason for visiting Silver Belle was to witness a demonstration of Spirit Photography by J. Edward. The results obtained through the mediumship of this Pennsylvania business man will be published in the next issue. Suffice it is to say that, over a period of year. he (Mr. Edward) has developed a rare phase of mediumship.

It has been the first time since the war that I have been able to drive my car to any spiritualist camp. This enabled us to carry along a good stock of books. These were displayed in

the main lobby of Silver Belle's Mountain Spring Hotel . . . giving the crowds attending the camp an opportunity to make selections. Many tell us that it is difficult to choose books from a list. Others were surprised to see such a diversifica-



tion of titles. Hundreds took advantage of this opportunity.

According to manager James J. ("Jimmie") Parrish, the Mt. Springs Hotel affords nearly one hundred rooms for the accommodation of guests. The hotel has an interesting historical backan interesting historical back-ground. During the civil war days, leaders of the Union army bunked and had their meals on the premises. Records show that Lincoln remained overnight in one of the second floor rooms . fact, it is redecorated and known as "Lincoln's Room."

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THORO HARRIS

Eureka Springs, Ark.

Mr. Parrish owns and operates an antique shop which occupies a large room near the lobby. Visitors are intrigued when they view his rare collection.

Ethel Post-Parrish, camp secretary, who personally supervises all the activities, has offices in the LODGE adjoining the hotel. She greets newcomers to Silver Belle and sees that visitors are promptly and courteously acquainted with its surroundings. She is known as one of the world's outstanding mediums . . . versatile because her gifts include most of the known phases of mediumship,

specializing par-ticularly in physical phenomena (i. e) materialization and direct-voice.

Lena Barnes Jefts assists Mrs. Post-Parrish in the office and handles bookings for se-ances and private sittings with the camp's staff mediums. She is a lec-

turer and author of numerous pamphlets on science, philosophy and religion of Spiritualism.

Another officer and director of Silver Belle, is Hugh Gordon Burroughs, pastor of The Church of Two Worlds, Washington, D. C. He is one of the camp's featured workers, a lecturer, clairvoyant and direct-voice medium.

#### Arthur Ford Featured

Lena B JEFTS

During my visit, Arthur Ford began his weeks' engagement with a Saturday evening service and Sunday afternoon lecture. At the message service following, he was assisted by Mary Fulton, formerly from Daytona Beach and Canada but now conducting a church in Huntington, West Virginia.

I met many other regularly cheduled Silver Belle mediums: Edith Green, pastor of Detroit's Allen Memorial Spiritualist Church; M. McBride Panton, Albertson Memorial Spiritualist Church, Stamford, Connecticut; John Reese, Boston, Massachu-setts; Elizabeth Fabian, Camp Silver Belle; Ernest Holden, Camp Filver Belle; Roger E. Hooker, Portland, Maine; Bertha Eckroad, Baltimore, Maryland; Emma Munch, Philadelphia, Pa.; Marion Nicoletti, New York City; Ray-mond Burns, Norfolk, Virginia. Other mediums on the official 1946 Silver Belle program were not scheduled during my stay.

# Prominent Visitors

Visitors at the camp during the week-end were: Eddie Mackay and about 15 of his class members from New York City; Ellis Ford, Chester, Pa.; Emily Large, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Barton Cross,

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UNIVERSITY PRESS 110 N. Howard St. (P-193) Eatontown, N. J., whose article appears on the front page of this issue; Greta and Louis Hoover, N. Y. C., Edna and William McCart-Westfield, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich, Malden, Massachusetts; Alexander F. Jenkins and son, Baltimore, Maryland; Henry Amidon, the man who discovered and now sponsors the spirit photographer, J. Edward (see article September 25th issue describing his phenomenal demonstration): Rev. E. Whiteraft, pastor of the Fourth Spiritualist Church of Camden, New Jersey.

My notes call to my attention: Mary Fulton's new phase of mediumship — direct-voice: Roger Hooker's noteworthy public demonstration of billet reading; Arthur Ford's superb Sunday after-noon lecture; Mary Fulton's public clairvoyance; photographing levitation through the mediumship of H. G. Burroughs, Ethel Post-Parrish and Raymond Burns; expressions of en-

thusiasm over Mrs. Post-Parrish's m a teri alization; Jimmie Parrish's singing in the dining room during dinner hour; remodeling and improvements generally on the camp grounds; Edith Green's public de-

monstration of clairvoyance; Hugh Gordon Burrough's masterful handling of a difficult lecture subject.

Mary FULTON

#### To Burn Mortgage

I was impressed with the friendliness and cheerfulness expressed by resident and visiting mediums as well as the host of guests: the crowded hotel-even to the extent using the lobby to accommodate some overnight guests; the splendid attendance in the auditorium as well as at all private seances; and last but not least. the home-cooked meals in the dining room—vegetables from Camp Silver Belle's own garden, chick-ens and eggs from their own and

According to Mrs. Post-Parrish, there will be a banquet at the camp, 8 P. M. Saturday, August 31st. . . . the following day Sunday and Labor Day will be their really GREAT DAYS—then the burning of the mortgage will free the shackles of debt after fourteen years of earnest effort on the part of all who had their hearts set upon the building of a great camp. Thousands are expected to attend. WILL YOU be there?

### Here And There

Carrie Yarter was ordained by a missionary of The General Assembly of Spiritualists at Jamestown, N. Y. several weeks ago.

Rev. Yarter is pastor of The Open Door Spiritualist Church, 503 E. Second St. and will continue regular services every Wednesday and Sunday.... Rev. Isabel Florenza, (60), pastor and founder of the Harmony Temple of Spiritual Brotherhood, 1039 Seventh Ave., San Diego, California, pass ed away . . . Ralph Parker, Hollywood, California was a visitor at Lily Dale during July and August. . . . one of the largest weekday attendances ever recorded at Lily Dale Assembly was experienced July 26th last when Ed Bodin of New York City was the featured afternoon lecturer, followed by clairvoyance by Frederick Nicholson. The entire program was sponsored by the Community of Lily Dale whose evening attraction was the premier showing of Auroratone, "Music in Col-. . . Hundreds of letters were received at The Psychic Observer office complaining about the articles written by *Dorothy Dix* and

# RIGHT

#### A HIGH SPIRITUAL SENSE

By Lady (Muriel) Anderson

WHAT IS RIGHT? This question is often asked, with regard to many problems of life, as they

The word "Right" in all languages; symbolises a natural instinct of humanity. Animals have also the same sense of right, which is proved by the cunning of the He knows that he is stealing, as he waits for the moment to thieve! — otherwise, he would "take what he wants" without scheming!

Primitive man was aware of the instinct to do right or wrong. In the course of time, man has become more aware of the meaning of this symbol, and although he knows that he is going against

Dr. George W. Crane. Both Dix and Crane write syndicate articles that appear in thousands of newspapers all over the U.S.A. Their attacks upon Spiritualism are nothing new; Spiritualists have had to contend with similar criticisms before-ell of which proves nothing except that most of the heckling of mediums and mediumship seems to come from those who know the least about the subject they so blatantly try to tear down. . . . N. S. Themelis, President of the W. T. Stead Memorial Center, 11 West 88th St., New York City, visited Lily Dale during August. His plans for reorganization will be made public this fall. . . . According to L. Pirt, secretary of The Britten Memorial Spiritualist Church of Toronto reports a successful 'observance of Canadian Day at Lily Dale August 4th last. Pastor of the church, Rev. M. Potts led the activities. She was assisted by choir leader and organist, Roy Pannabecker and soloists, Beth Macdonald and Ann Southon. . . . Rev. Fred Jordan announces the opening of his new church in Portsmouth, "The Light of Truth Church of Divine Healing' at 20th and Omohundro Sts. . . . Margaret Armstrong, secretary of The Progressive Spirit-ual Truth Church, 10½ North Walnut St., Danville, announces plans for a "Spiritual Reunion" October 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. The celebration will be held in The Danville Armory, Hazel and Harrison St. concluded by a full-dress Indian Concert featuring Chief Ho-T-Pi. The Church was founded December 16th, 1945 when Rev. Edward Armstrong was in-stalled as pastor. Last Mother's Day, the church selected Rev. Edna Utter Ward as its "Church Mother." Rev. Fanchion Harwood of Chesterfield served the church last May 19th; Rev. Lena Drews, Illinois State secretary, presented a charter to the church June 9th.



ENGLISH PHILOSOPHER

"Astra (Muriel) Lady Anderson. Lea," Crowborough, Sussex, England; endowed with unique inspirational gifts, and as an adept, her talents cover a wide range as composer, musician, vocalist, artist, poetess, author and playwright. All of her work expresses originality and sincerity of purpose.

himself, or his fellow creatures, he will cast away the thought of right, and do something he knows is absolutely wrong, and chance the consequences.

Afterwards, he sometimes pities himself, when he is feeling miserable, despite the fact that he knew at the time he was doing wrong!

Right may be described as a high Spiritual sense - something that does not injure the material body, fellow beings, or one's own soul.

Right is something that can make the present, or future generations, sound in mind and body.

Right is the only sense of instinct that can bring happiness to the world!

Wrong may have its fling, but at "what a price!"

Right is not welcomed with open arms as wrong is. There is no difficulty getting people to do wrong—they do it without any coaxing—but what a struggle it is, and has been during the ages, to interest people in Right!

Many are keen to listen to immoral tales, etc., but commence to tell them something inspiring for the soul, and they will leave you standing alone! — and scoff at your ideals.

Right could be as easy as wrong, by the change of Thought Direction, as the world is shaped entirely by this power.

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REF. 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.

During the summer months Rev. Whitney conducted well attended services twice weekly at The People's Spiritualist Church (N.S.A.) 1011 Ninth Are., North. St. Petersburg, Florida . . . leaving there August 25th last to reopen his Columbus church Sunday, Septemher 8th

Rev. Whitney, a member of the National Spiritalist Association, has lectured and demonstrated various phases of mediumship at many Spiritualist Camps during the summer months in the past but this year the Florida assignment at St. Petersburg prevented his former camp schedules.

# **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 Spiritualist science is confirmed as not only possible and natural, but at. the same time the crowning science human of all sciences open to 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

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 omnicient 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 us. 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 spir-itual 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 over-laid 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 Spiritualist science must be one that rests on the bases of sound philosphy 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." "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 BARRET

1845-1926

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

He began his first investigations in 1874, two years later he sub-

"It Is Impossible To Reject the Evidence"



SIR WM. F. BARRETT

mitted 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. 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 sistematic investigation of the phenomena of mesmerism Lord Rayleigh and Col. Lane-Fox seconded the motion but—probably owing to the sensation produced by the Lankester-Slade 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

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