

ROMAN CATHOLIC SPIRITUALISM.

The Appearances of the Holy Virgin in France, and Alsace, in 1872-3.

BY WILLIAM HOWITT

"One half of Europe worships a Jew, and the other half a Jewess." - Remondet's Journal

[From the Spiritual London, Eng. Magazine, continued from last week.]

All these are the exact transcripts of the pictures as painted by the great masters who have done so much to popularize the Roman superstition, and which have been copied in every degree of art, or the lack of it, throughout the whole Catholic world.

Now none but Catholics whose minds have been moulded by the false legends and delusive pictures of their Church, would expect the Mother of Christ or the Savior himself to appear under such absurd and truthless forms.

St. Joseph, too, they saw on these occasions as an old man leaning on a staff, as the painters have drawn him without any Scripture authority, for no one knew his real age, and probably he was no older than Mary.

What are we to think of these things? Simply, that so far as they were real representations, they were dramatic representations got up by Catholic spirits from Hades to assist the Catholic Church in its endeavor to maintain itself against the progress of the general spirit of enlightenment which is fast battering it down.

This work is widely circulated amongst the common people, and especially the country population, throughout Bavaria, Austria, the Catholic parts of Switzerland, and all Tyrol; as well as amongst the numerous German settlers in America.

What then does this book teach to all Catholics, but especially to the vast multitude of the ignorant? Whilst it professes that it is a calumny of the Protestants that the Catholics worship the Virgin Mary, it gives the most zealous, unequivocal, abundant and varied proofs of this worship.

The thing is too ridiculous for a thought, yet the attempt will for a time be successful in strengthening the faith of the ignorant in this domineering and unbalanced Church. But it can be only for a time.

It is a significant fact that Pius the Ninth appeared in these holy Catholic shows in the French heavens, came with them, vanished with them. There are Spiritualists who believe men feeling strongly on some particular subject, thinking intensely on some particular person, can project their spirits, making them even visible to such person in distant places.

The whole dramatic castle has been of a clever character, the entire arrangements eminently correct in historic and scenic fact. The Roman Church is famous for spectacle and imposing presentations, and the highest art has consequently been conspicuous in all these religious tableaux at Lourdes, Pontmain, Fontenay in the Gronde, at Kruth, at Lichtenberg near Savergne, also in the Vosges, at Walbach near Colmar, and other places.

of saving the sick and decrepit Church did not appear. The papal power has not been restored. The monasteries and convents have been ruthlessly suppressed. The Jesuits, the great scheming and operating body, have been broken up in Rome, and expelled from every part of the world.

It is to this omnipotent woman that all good Catholics must resort for aid, and not to God. These poor ignorant people are taught that Protestantism is a cold and loveless heresy, because it does not include the worship of Mary.

Again, says this book blessed by the Infalible, "The endeavour after perfection is placed under the protection of the Holy Virgin, because it is her own right as the Queen of the Saints."

The Catholics can not find terms of worship sufficient to heap upon her. She is the treasury of grace; the irresistible intercessor; the certain answerer of prayer for help; the divinest teacher; the sure support; the most tender consoler; the healer of all sickness and injuries, being the great Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

And after all this the Catholics pretend that they don't worship her! What do they mean by worship? They set her on the throne of heaven and earth, on the right hand of God. They usurp for her all the honors and offices of Christ.

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Through the Church may pretend to put a limit to the honors of the Virgin, the saints whom the Church has canonized and approved for ages thus tell you that her honors can not be limited—the partaker of God's infinite attributes. Let it be remembered that the book which contains this and much more is expressly blessed and sanctioned by the present infallible head of the Church.

These processions and those of every false faith—Islamism, and the fetich worship of India and Africa. No such eccentricities or extravagances belong to the pure and noble worship of the great and all-wise God, or to the simple but sublime Savior. Their worship is too orderly, too rational, too true to the august dignity and celestial wisdom of the objects adored for such devotees. In this, as in all things, "by their fruits shall ye know them."

The Catholics admit Mary to be merely a created being, yet they worship a creature, contrary to the strictest commands of the Scriptures, and have churches with regular bodies of priests appointed for this service. God in the prophets declared His anger against all who worship the Queen of Heaven, yet the Catholics, in open defiance of this divine declaration, have again set up a Queen of Heaven, and the fact of a pilgrimage is a confession that the object worshipped is local and limited.

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The Reviewer

THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE, AND CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALISM. Being a synopsis of the investigations of Spirit Intercourse, by an Episcopal Bishop, three ministers, five doctors and others, at Memphis, Tenn., in 1853.

The author of these volumes, which have made a profound impression on the class to whom they are addressed, and have a deep interest to all inquirers, is a fine illustration of the power of truth over the receptive, unprejudiced mind.

Mr. Watson was a minister of the Methodist church for thirty five years, active, laborious, and more than usually respected and honored. His education and prejudice inclined him in that direction.

He from the beginning believed in the ministrations of angels, whom he regards as identical with spirits. He found his belief supported by the Bible, the history of the church, and by his shining lights.

The angels of the Bible are ministering spirits, who, "from their very nature and constitution, are best adapted to the work of guardianship and ministrations, and the work is best adapted to their growth and development."

A circle for investigation was formed, consisting of five physicians, "standing at the head of their profession," three ministers and several influential laymen.

would have at once discarded it. Although that spirit, signing himself "Mystery," did not write one word conflicting with their preconceived ideas...

The first part of "The Clock Struck Three" is devoted to the reviews and their answers evoked by the preceding, having finished which, Mr. Watson declares he is "done with them."

The second, and by far the most valuable portion of this volume, is devoted to the showing of the harmony between Christianity, Science and Spiritualism.

"Every individual who would understand the truths of the Spirit-world, must be his own medium. God must write his law upon their understanding and put it in their affections."

Mr. Watson would have the cause freed from the excrecences which obstruct it. He would at once have it noble, dignified, and truly spiritual.

Throughout these volumes we are constantly reminded that the author has been a strict believer in the dogmas of the church. He can not be expected to have escaped suddenly from the influence of almost half a century's education.

What is most admirable and charming in these volumes is the calm spirit of goodness, the depth of fraternal love, the catholicity of thought which pervades them.

They who have been educated in the school of free thought, will say that Mr. Watson has yet to abandon many views he now holds as essential.

Mr. Watson is well versed in general science, and his arguments are fortified by its aid, but he evidently feels himself most at home on Biblical ground.

with all his books, yet as long as millions accept it as infallible, it becomes an invaluable ally to an unpopular cause. Its texts will be accepted when all other evidence will be rejected with scorn.

The facts and communications are among the most important features of these volumes. The latter are characteristic of the authors from whom they purport to emanate, and valuable for the ideas they express.

These volumes can not be too highly commended to Spiritualists who desire works to give to friends in the churches. They are invaluable as missionary agents.

Medium's Column.

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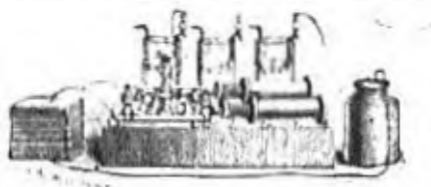
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WORDS FROM CONFUCIUS.

Do unto another as thou wouldst be dealt with thyself. Thou only needst this law alone; it is the foundation and principle of all the rest.

The wise man has no sooner fixed his eyes on a good man than he endeavors to imitate his virtues; but the same wise man has no sooner fixed his eyes on a man given up to his vices, but musing himself he interrogates himself in a trembling manner if he be not like that man.

ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

Let them testify who lived at the time and on the spot where all those wonderful things are said to have occurred. They deny that there is any truth in the miracles recorded, and treat the whole subject with derision.

Mr. D. S. Ferris, of Sparta, Ill., followed Mr. Henderson, and exhibited his long ears and his asinine qualities by saying, "The General Government knows no Sabbath."

Then followed these resolutions: Resolved, That the facts of the nation's life and its duty to God unite in requiring an explicit acknowledgment in its written Constitution of its relation to God as the author of its existence; to Christ as its Ruler, and the Bible as our supreme authority.

Resolved, That, while it is not the province of Civil Government to enforce religious worship or observances, this Constitutional recognition of the connection of our Government with Christianity is necessary, not to sustain the Christian religion, but to aid in preserving and maintaining the Christian institutions and usages of our nation.

But fortunately there was an intelligent opposition element even in this convention, and that, too, manifested by the President thereof.

Mr. Mills desired to resign, not being in harmony with those present, but was finally induced to retain his position.

The following is not one of that kind. Such fruit (ignoble) is rarely found among Spiritualists, but among the orthodox it is abundant.

Mr. Young of Dutch Kill, N. Y., recently became insane through an over anxiety lest her soul might be finally lost.

Three weeks ago the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Kill, Mr. Steinfuhrer, preached a funeral sermon over the body of a former neighbor of Mrs. Young.

There is a small community of Baptists in the Kill, and some members of the church thought it their duty to institute prayer meetings for her benefit.

But Mrs. Young grew worse, and several times threatened to kill her husband, her children, or herself.

On Saturday a spasm seized Mrs. Young and she conducted herself so violently that a straight jacket was put on her.

On Tuesday the officer went to take her away to the Utica Asylum for the insane.

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two or three occasions last year? Their religion is sacred to them; it is brilliant throughout the ranks of millions of Chinese, with good effects; it has a high-toned morality; it does not abound with contradictions; and their Bible is not saturated with a vein of obscenity, to corrupt the morals of the people.

God in the Constitution.

A convention for the purpose of putting God in the Constitution of the U. S., has been held at Saint Louis, Mo., and a more consummate set of religious asses never congregated together. They exhibit less sense, even, than the Catholics, who claim that they have seen vials of the Virgin Mary's milk, locks of her hair, pieces of her gown, and fragments of the true cross.

Mr. Henderson, who was present, said, "Too much importance was given to the ground taken by atheists. Any individual who would affirm that the many ingenious mechanisms of the present day were not the result of human skill, but were simply chance happenings, would be laughed at as of unsound mind."

Resolved, That the facts of the nation's life and its duty to God unite in requiring an explicit acknowledgment in its written Constitution of its relation to God as the author of its existence; to Christ as its Ruler, and the Bible as our supreme authority.

Resolved, That, while it is not the province of Civil Government to enforce religious worship or observances, this Constitutional recognition of the connection of our Government with Christianity is necessary, not to sustain the Christian religion, but to aid in preserving and maintaining the Christian institutions and usages of our nation.

Mr. Mills desired to resign, not being in harmony with those present, but was finally induced to retain his position.

The following is not one of that kind. Such fruit (ignoble) is rarely found among Spiritualists, but among the orthodox it is abundant.

Mr. Young of Dutch Kill, N. Y., recently became insane through an over anxiety lest her soul might be finally lost.

Three weeks ago the minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Kill, Mr. Steinfuhrer, preached a funeral sermon over the body of a former neighbor of Mrs. Young.

There is a small community of Baptists in the Kill, and some members of the church thought it their duty to institute prayer meetings for her benefit.

But Mrs. Young grew worse, and several times threatened to kill her husband, her children, or herself.

On Saturday a spasm seized Mrs. Young and she conducted herself so violently that a straight jacket was put on her.

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woman. After the fit had passed away she became calm again. Again on Sunday she became so violent that, to save her children and herself from her fury, she was manacled by Officer Ward and her feet tied with a piece of stout rope. The officer watched her for two nights, and says that when in her furious rage she barked and yelped like a dog.

On Tuesday the officer went to take her away to the Utica Asylum for the insane. She was in a calm and apparently rational mood. When the officer told her whether he was about to take her, she at once held out both her wrists for the manacles and said that she was willing to go, but that it was too bad that she must leave her husband and five little children.

Materializations at Terre Haute, Ind.

S. S. Barnett writes as follows in regard to the seances of Mrs. Annie Stewart:

The cabinet is a plain box or wardrobe, 5x3x8 feet. The front is composed of floors, so when open the entire inside of the cabinet is exposed to view. There were present some fifteen or twenty persons. The medium, Mrs. Stewart, now enters the cabinet "alone" her dress of some light figured fabric. On taking our seats Dr. Pence requested all whispering and unnecessary noise be avoided as much as possible, and that it was sometimes half an hour before any demonstrations were made.

The next apparition was a boy, apparently 12 or 14 years of age, short hair, white shirt and pants, minus shoes or stockings. He entered the cabinet and called for a cane, which was given him. The door was again thrown open, and lo! there stood the same boy with the right limb off just below the knee.

Thus ended the seance for the evening. Among other things done through the organism of Mrs. Stewart is independent slate writing, i. e., writing on a slate without any visible hands. To illustrate: Before leaving home I was intrusted by a friend with a double slate fastened with four screws, the heads sunk into the frame, then sealed with wax.

Between the two slates was a bit of pencil about the size of a half grain of wheat. Before sealing the slate two questions were written on the inside. On my return I imagine our surprise on opening the slate to find the questions filling one side of one and two-thirds of the other side of the slate.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, let me say if any unprejudiced person will visit Terre Haute, and make a thorough investigation of the phenomena constantly occurring there, I am confident he will return satisfied that "Shakespeare was wrong in likening our departed ones as gone to a bourne from whence no traveler returns."

In regard to Mrs. Stewart's mediumship let me say I do not believe she can be excelled in the West, from the little rap to materialization.

Mr. Jones - Why is it that our glorious cause is so infested with vampires and dead beats, and why is it that those whose hearts and purses are with the cause must be the victims of such unprincipled vagabonds?

WARN THE FRIENDS of the cause, of a few of these leeches that they may avoid being imposed upon also. Knowing that you are down on all fraud, deception and humbug of every kind, whether practiced by professing Spiritualists or not, I will give you a case or two in point.

Last March, one A. A. Noe, claiming to be a clairvoyant, came to my house with a letter of recommendation, stating that he had come to witness the materializations through Mr. Mott, and meet his dear departed friends, etc., etc. We took him in and kept him a few days without charging him a cent, and Mr. Mott held seances for him also without a cent of compensation, and when he came to leave, he with pitiful tones and tears in his eyes, told me he had not money enough to pay his fare to Ottumwa, where he was going to lecture, and if I would only be so kind as to loan him fifteen dollars, he could and would repay it soon, and hold me in everlasting remembrance for my kindness, etc.

He said he should certainly be back here in May, and did not in any event want any longer time than that. I let him have the money, and have never seen or heard from him since. I wrote twice to the post office he gave me as his address, and the letters came back not called for. As he had much to tell about his unpropitious marriage relations, I judge he is a Moses Wood-Hullite, and is with that crew.

Passing by many other instances of this nature, some of which by specious promises and appeals to my sympathies obtained much larger amounts, I will name a late case. About a month ago, one J. B. Tupper (as he claims) a medium, lecturer and physician from Wisconsin, came bringing a letter of recommendation from a valued friend. We received him cordially, kept him about two weeks without charge, attended two of Mott's seances free, and then came to me asking a loan of

TEN DOLLARS, stating he had sent to Wisconsin for a "remittance of one hundred dollars" which would be on in a week. I let him have the money, and yesterday he left for parts unknown without even thanking me or promising payment, while he upon this money has gone

TO FORAGE OFF of some other Spiritualists who has not lost all faith in human nature. Another form of imposition practiced upon us is for persons to come (generally female mediums), bring their trunks and without asking our consent or making arrangements, stay with us, and continue staying, making themselves

AT HOME GENERALLY, for weeks, and even months at a time. We had one case of this kind; she stayed eight months, - every week of which we expected would be the last. A hundred dollars would be a low estimate for the amount out of pocket in this case.

Hoping that this may be the means of saving other friends of the cause from being imposed on, I remain Yours Fraternaly, H. G. PITKIN. Memphis, Mo., Jan. 30th, 1875.

Brother Beals, of Greenfield, Mass., is right when he says "It is a shame that the RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL, which contains such good articles, and which I can not willingly do without, should be printed on such poor paper as was the last issue."

This week we could do no better, it is a part of the same lot, but we shall do the best we can to avoid such stuff in future.

Free Love.

Mr. Morse, writing to the London Spiritualist, says:

"I am sorry to say, but nevertheless it is true, that our brethren are sadly divided over here; the cause being the much vexed question of 'Free Love,' or, as it is called by the opposite side, 'free lust.'"

IS CHRISTIANITY A FAILURE?

A Heathen Protest - A Celestial on Christian Missionary Efforts.

WIFE WIVES FROM CONFUCIUS - THE AGE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE CHINESE - ETC.

MR. - Allow me to say that my people are perfectly satisfied and contented with their lot here in the United States if let alone, but there is too much interference with their affairs, especially by the Christian people. We want them to let us alone, not only in our own country, but here also. The Christian religion is not the only religion in the world; although it makes such a bluster about being the correct one. It is "great I and little you."

A BABY IN ITS SWADDLING CLOTHES. While now it gravely assumes to send men and women to "teach its father" or elder brother how to live and die. To us as a people this looks contemptible, indeed, and we look upon them with disgust.

Great I and little you! The question of sending missionaries from China to America has been argued in our councils at home, but our best men (as they should) frowned upon it at once, and strenuously advocating the religion of Confucius, said, "Let us mind our own business." Their religion is as sacred to them as ours to us.

SYCOPHANTIC, FAWNING AND CONTEMPTIBLE of all our people, despised by their own country, outcasts from the land of their birth, and closely watched and snubbed by Americans. Our own religion teaches us that it is not only wrong to steal and lie but that punishment is certain and sure.

Christians often abuse their own families; even to the abandonment of father and mother. Such a thing is unknown in China. No matter how degraded a man may be, he never forgets his duty to the aged and helpless. Public sentiment in China would punish him severely should he neglect that duty.

In regard to sincerity, the law desired that every man should be honest, truthful and sincere in all things. In this country it was said, 'If a man has money he has friends.' In China it could be said, 'If a man has friends he has money.'

There is a small community of Baptists in the Kill, and some members of the church thought it their duty to institute prayer meetings for her benefit. But Mrs. Young grew worse, and several times threatened to kill her husband, her children, or herself.

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Negro Shows versus Spiritualism.

By Dr. C. F. Sanford

Tastes differ. It is said there is no account of...

On Saturday evening, when, according to...

TRAVELING NEGRO MINISTERS THOUGHT, to perform in. Verily, tastes differ...

The church ever preach that we should believe in immortality...

"I loved a yellor gal 'way down south." (This must have been detectable for the free-lovers present...

Again, what good? We as parents have a home circle, and a family relation...

friends do take them, and do care for them the same...

NEW DEVELOPMENTS. A Physical Medium in Colorado.

I will give an account of the last two seances held by Mrs. Vail in Pueblo, Colorado.

On last Monday night a circle was formed of some twenty gentlemen...

We will have another in a few days, when those who hold tickets...

The Burner of Barlow's "Voices" Defended by One of His Flock.

EDITOR JOURNAL.—Will you never have done raking up old things?

Robert Dale Owen's "Debatable Land," owned by a widow about fifteen miles from this place...

There has been so much said about Barlow's Voices that I have proposed to buy a copy...

BUT I AM sorry to inform you that the burning of the Voices has had a tendency to make our other idolized Arad...

ONE OF THE FLOCK Sherman, Chautauque county, N. Y., January 18th, 1875.

Report of Convention.

The following is my report of the 1st Quarterly meeting for 1875...

Opening remarks were made by the speakers present, Warren Chase, Capt. H. H. Brown and J. W. Kenyon...

Met at 11 o'clock pursuant to programme of Business Committee. One hour was passed in conference...

FANNIE M. BROWN, Sec. Mrs. M. E. HOUSE, Pres.

Voices from the People.

MANCHESTER, TENN.—L. N. Beag writes.—I like the JOURNAL and you may consider me a permanent subscriber...

MT. VERNON, IA.—Mrs. C. Post writes.—I am now 74 years old, and I have taken your blessed paper eight years...

OAK CREEK, WIS.—Henry Fowle writes.—Allow me to say that thus far you have conducted the JOURNAL to my entire satisfaction...

SHINGLE SPRINGS, CAL.—Mary H. Bennett writes.—Your paper with its fearless defense of truth...

WYKOFF, MINN.—J. T. Sherman writes.—Spiritualism is in the ascendency here; quite a number have stepped into the ranks lately...

SMYRNA, MICH.—Mrs. Mary J. Howe writes.—At one time it had not been for you and your noble paper boldly standing to the front...

AURORA, ILL.—A. F. Benedict writes.—I have been an interested reader of the JOURNAL since its publication...

MIDDLEPORT, N. Y.—Jas. M. Evans writes.—I thank you very much for your notice of that cheat and humbug, Chas. H. Row...

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.—P. Thompson writes.—The watchman on the walls of the Spiritualism in this location may say members...

LEICESTER, VT.—Addie L. Paine writes.—Our glorious cause is progressing here in this little town. The fact is, we Spiritualists here own our own way...

WASHINGTON, D. C.—George White writes.—In your issue of January 2nd, I noticed a communication from Washington, D. C., written by J. Edwards...

HAMLET, N. Y.—Bishop A. Beals writes.—I have just finished an engagement at Le Roy and have commenced a pioneer work...

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PROOF PALPABLE OF IMMORTALITY: Being an Account of the Materialization Phenomena of Modern Spiritualism, with Remarks on the Relations of the Facts to Theology, Metaphysics, and Religion.

