

INDEPENDENT

Through the Mediumship of
FRED EVANS.



SLATE-WRITING

No. 1244 MISSION STREET

133 OCTAVIA ST. San Francisco, Cal.

Independent Slate-writing.

THROUGH THE MEDIUMSHIP OF FRED EVANS, SAN FRANCISCO.

(From the Golden Gate.)

THE annexed is a fac simile of a slate, slightly reduced in size, written through the mediumship of Mr. Fred Evans, of this city, in the presence of the editor of this journal and his wife. We regard it as the finest instance of psychographic writing yet given to the world.

The medium is a young man of twenty-four years, with only a moderate English education. No one who knows him believes him capable of writing such a slate as this; and to suppose that the various writings and languages could have been placed thereon by persons competent to do the same would be to suppose that such educated persons would become parties to a stupendous deception, involving the crime of forgery. The history of this slate is as follows:

In September last, the editor of this journal, having in contemplation the publication of a holiday number of the *Golden Gate*, called upon Mr. Evans, accompanied by his wife, for the purpose of consulting with him, or rather with his psychographic guide, Spirit John Gray, concerning the preparation of a slate, that we could have engraved, which should bear upon its face some intellectual evidence of genuineness, as any slate, written in English, no matter how crucial the conditions under which it is prepared, would be positive evidence only to those knowing to the facts.

Our first interview was on Sunday, September 11, 1886, at 10 o'clock A. M. Besides the invisibles, only the three persons above mentioned were present. Sitting at a table, in the full light of day, Mr. Gray instantly signalled his presence by raps upon the table, when we explained to him our object, inquiring if it was possible for him to bring together a number of spirits of different earthly nationalities, who could furnish us short messages in their native languages. He replied that he thought he could do so, answering our questions either by writing independently, by telegraphic rapping (which his medium has learned to read), or by writing automatically through the medium's hand. He at once entered heartily into our plans.

It was found, as has usually been our experience when sitting with mediums of this phase, that our presence afforded a strong assisting battery, and that the writing came with great readiness, three and four slates being written upon simultaneously, and all without the slightest attempt at concealment.

The controlling influence requested that we meet the medium at the same hour for a few Sundays, and hold the same slate, when he could more fully determine his ability in the matter. We placed a private mark upon the slate, which we had then held for a few minutes, and it was laid aside until the following Sunday.

On the second Sunday writing came freely upon other slates lying upon the table, and upon some placed on the floor near where we were sitting, but none upon the slate under our hands. Mr. Gray assured us that he was getting along finely—that he was sure he would

be able to procure writing in several languages. He recognized the excellent conditions we furnished him, and expressed himself as greatly pleased with the experiment.

On the third Sunday, September 25th, we were promptly on hand, as before. The slate containing our private mark was taken by the medium, and first thoroughly rubbed on both sides with a cloth dampened with his saliva—not a very neat way of cleansing a slate, but Mr. Evans says the writing comes much more

the outer edge of the slate frame for a few moments, and then removed his hands entirely. In about five minutes loud raps signalled that the writing was finished. We raised the slate and found the under side covered as seen in the engraving.

Two other slates, which had been prepared in like manner and placed upon the floor, with a bit of pencil between, were found at the close of the seance written full. As the message purports to come from the controlling spirit,

spirits never wrote through the medium before; therefore they are at a disadvantage; and there is also a difficulty in bringing them here to write, for, as you well understand, there is no attraction for them. But I have the medium, yourself and wife for an attraction. You will see that the languages written embrace Chinese, Japanese, Egyptian, Old Asiatic, Hebrew, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Greek, Norwegian and English. Wishing your dear wife, yourself and the *Golden Gate* every prosperity, I am your friend and well wisher in spirit,
JOHN GRAY.

Of the messages given there are some defects, as Mr. Gray says may be expected; but on the whole we regard the writing most remarkable, the Asiatic languages especially, of which but very few of our own race have acquired anything more than an imperfect speaking knowledge. A learned professor, who assisted in the translation, thinks there is not a scholar in this city who can write all the languages given upon this slate. Following are the translations of the writings;

German—I have found an easy way for making known to science the proof of the return of the dead to this earth, and I shall soon give it to the world.
PROFESSOR ZOLLNER.

Italian—I am glad to be able to write you a few lines to aid you in proving the truth of a future life.
COUNT ROZZIA.

French—Monsieur Gray: I have acquitted myself of your commission.
M. FREMONT.

Greek—I come to say this—seek for better things—think well of all.
SOCRATES.

Spanish—My Dear Friend, Sr. Don Owen: Rich or wise as a man may be, don't let him be proud. It is from a King, Agesilaus, we have that grand maxim, "That one is not great only as far as he is just."
DON JUAN ALVISO.

Norwegian—I am here.
HEER HOLLE.

Chinese—I write a few words for you.
LU YEUN.

Japanese—How do you do?
OYAMA GENTURA.

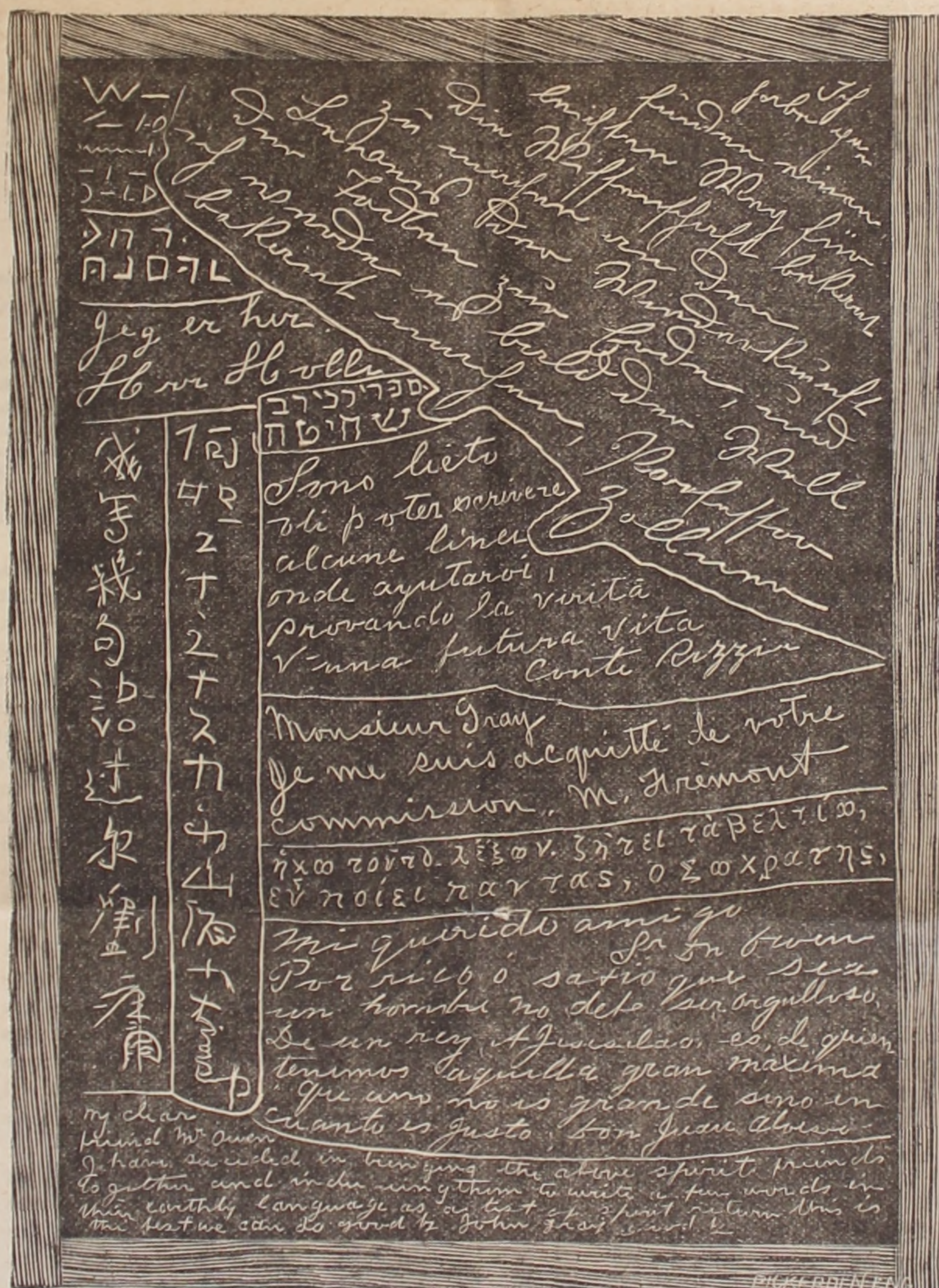
Hebrew—[This is the name of a book describing the killing of animals according to the Jewish rites.]

Egyptian and Old Asiatic—[See explanation below.]

My Dear Friend, Mr. Owen: I have succeeded in bringing the above spirit friends together and inducing them to write a few words in their earthly language, as a test of spirit return. This is the best we can do. Good bye.
JOHN GRAY.

Being unable to obtain translations of these languages, [on the upper left hand corner of the slate], we submitted the matter to Spirit John Gray, and received from him, in the same manner as the first writing was obtained, a message in which he says, "I give to you as received by me. The Egyptian reads: 'Yea, the spirit of man shall live forever.'—NERO, who was an old Egyptian seer. The old Asiatic is the Assyrian cuneiform characters, which being interpreted reads, 'Tom Paine.' The alphabet is derived from the following:" Here follows the characters and the key thereto, which we are unable to reproduce in types.

To set at rest any idea that may be entertained that this writing was a transference from our own minds, we will say that with the exception of some little knowledge of French and less of Spanish, the English language is the only language with which we are familiar. We positively know that the writing was not



readily when the slates are thus prepared. He then handed the slate to us, and we (Mrs. O. and the writer) were both fully satisfied that there was no writing upon the slate. From that moment the slate never left our hands, nor was it for an instant out of our sight. A small bit of slate pencil was placed upon the table, and we placed the slate over it, with our four hands resting thereon. The medium, sitting upon the opposite side of the table, touched

and relates to the main work in hand, we give it below:

MY DEAR FRIENDS, MR. AND MRS. OWEN: I see your object is to create an interest among skeptics of spiritual phenomena and cause them to investigate. I entered in with your feelings, and have succeeded in inducing twelve spirits of different nationality to write a few words in the language they used when on earth. You will, no doubt, find many defects, but we have done the best we can, and you must accept it with the knowledge that these

done by any mortal hand. As we have in our possession the slate upon which it was written, any one interested can satisfy himself that the writing is by no chemical preparation, as the fine particles of slate caused by the attrition of the pencil over the surface of the slate can readily be seen.

We have given in the above statement the simple facts; the skeptical reader may explain them as best he may.

A Question of Evidence.

In commenting on the facts here presented, the editor of the *Golden Gate* says.

"In connection with the slate-writing obtained through the mediumship of Fred Evans, we desire to call attention to some evidence of its genuineness other than that given by the editor of this journal and his wife, who were present at the seance, and who *knew* that the writing was done by no mortal hand.

Of course we do not claim that the messages were written in each instance by the spirits of the persons from whom they purport to come; in fact, we are inclined to think that most of them may have been written by the psychographic guide of Mr. Evans while under control of said spirits—just as a German spirit, for instance, might influence a sensitive who had no knowledge of German, to speak or write that language. It would naturally be more or less imperfect. It is the *fact*, and not the *nature* of the writing, in the manner claimed for it, that we desire to establish.

Now, the skeptic will naturally insist that we were deceived—that the slate we held in our hands, and upon which we know there was no writing, was not the slate we found in our hands at the conclusion of the seance, and upon which the writing appeared—that in some mysterious way that slate was changed in our hands. Let us, for the sake of argument, assume that this was the case. Then, the writing must have been placed thereon by Mr. Evans, or by persons familiar with the languages written. As for it being the work of Mr. Evans, no one who knows him believes him capable of doing anything of the kind. He is a young man of twenty-four, evidently unschooled in any language but the English, and only indifferently well in that. He has certainly, while residing in this city, never been heard to utter a word in any language except his own. This writing implies a classic education, which Mr. Evans surely has not. In fact, it is doubtful if there is a single individual in America who can write in the twelve languages named. There are probably many who can write in more languages, but not in those twelve. Hence we are obliged to dismiss the supposition that the writing was done by Mr. Evans.

Then, if not written as claimed, who could have done it but various persons in the community qualified to write said languages? And just here we encounter a difficulty which all must readily appreciate. Would an intelligent German, Spaniard, Italian, Frenchman, Norwegian, etc., be apt to lend himself to such a fraud and commit actual forgery by signing another's name to a written message? Don Juan Alviso, for instance, a former well known resident of this State, addresses a personal note to the editor of this journal. Would any sensible and intelligent Spaniard, as the writer of that message evidently is, be apt to sign Alviso's name to a message of that kind? If these messages were written by any person in mortal life, they must certainly know it; and they must know that we have published to the world the claim that the writing was produced by some occult power. We now invite, yea, challenge them, in the interest of truth, to come forward and disprove the claim.

As confirmatory of the genuineness of the writing upon this slate, we might refer to a slate, a copy of which appeared in this journal

in May last, an account of which was given in connection therewith. The slate contained fifteen messages. It was written at a seance given to the writer and a number of personal friends, nearly all of whom were strangers to the medium. The slates were prepared and sealed by a committee from the audience. They were wound with cord and suspended to the gas jet in the center of the room, the medium never touching the slates from the moment they were placed in the hands of the committee, and yet all but two persons present received messages thereon.

Some of the Many Comments.

Medium and Daybreak London, Eng. says:

We regard the slate with the twelve languages to be the most remarkable example of direct writing we ever heard of. Many languages have been written at divers times, but here we have them all at once, and executed in an high order of efficiency.

That stupendous spirit manifestation of direct writing in twelve languages through the mediumship of Fred. Evans, has excited comment all over the world, both by the *Spiritual* and *Local Press*. Fifteen papers have already reproduced the slate in their columns. Many who could not borrow the cut, having it especially engraved at their own expense.

JIM G. ANDERSON, editor of *Richmond Democrat*: I consider the tests you have given me on slates the most remarkable I ever heard of. The test is in the name of C. P. Anderson, being a *fac simile* of my father's hand writing, and easily recognized by my foreman who worked for my father.

C. M. BROWN, editor of the *Eastern Star*, says, at the close of a long account of a seance by proxy with Fred. Evans: The messages which we fully recognize is sufficient to indorse the wonderful mediumship of Fred. Evans.

The *Harbinger of Light*, Australia, says that a most remarkable medium for Psychography, by the name of Fred. Evans, is giving wonderful manifestations of spirit power in San Francisco Cal.

The *Light of London*, Eng. gives a long and favorable report of Mr. Evans' mediumship.

[GOLDEN GATE, March 19, 1887.]

A REMARKABLE MANIFESTATION OF SPIRIT POWER IN PUBLIC.

But a few mediums for physical manifestations of spirit power are yet able to demonstrate their gifts in public before large, promiscuous audiences. That eminent medium Dr. Slade, never appears before public audiences, but invariably exercises his gifts in private parlors and in presence of but few persons. Such was also the case with that psychic wonder, Charles H. Foster.

For several months past the editor of this journal has been experimenting in independent slate-writing through the mediumship of Mr. Fred. Evans, of this city. Several of the results of these experiments, including the wonderful slate of twelve languages, have appeared from time to time in these columns, as our readers are aware.

One object of our experiments has been to demonstrate the power of Mr. Evans' psychographic control, Spirit John Gray, to take his medium before a public audience, and produce such spirit manifestations as we knew he was capable of producing in private.

Spirit John Gray entered heartily into our plans, and thought he would be able, in a short time, to take his medium before the public, and was desirous that when he did so the writer should accompany him. So, for several weeks past we have been patiently waiting for "marching orders" from Mr. Gray, who informed us in due time that he was ready for the field. San Jose was designated as the place for our initial effort, and thither we went on Saturday last, giving, upon that

evening, a private test seance for the press reporters, and on Sunday evening appearing before an audience of about four hundred persons at the California Theatre of that city.

At the private seance there were present ten persons, all but one of whom had been or were then connected with the press. They examined and prepared the slates in their own way, held them in their own hands, and received some eight or ten messages written on four slates, most of which were of a private nature. One of the messages, written in red, white and blue, was from Spirit John Gray.

Upon another slate "was found," as the *Times* report of the seance has it, "what purported to be a communication from the late Prof. H. B. Norton, signed by him in a hand exactly resembling his signature."

Upon another of the slates there were five messages, all of a private nature. The editor of one of the papers received a long message upon a slate held by himself, purporting to come from a friend in spirit life. Of this preliminary seance the *Times* says:

We have complied with the requisite of the spirit boss to speak of it "as you find it and not as you think," and our readers can do their own thinking on the subject to suit themselves. We have given the facts, and will only remark that any one having seen these phenomena who should honestly attribute them to jugglery ought to be placed in a "Home for the Feeble Minded," provided there were such an institution for adults.

The *Mercury* says of this seance that the medium "succeeded in mystifying all present," and adds: "There was no chance for sleight-of-hand, and nothing of the kind was attempted. The trick, if trick it was, could not be satisfactorily explained by the witnesses."

The public meeting given at the Theatre on Sunday evening, drew forth the following cautious statement from the same paper:

There was a large audience and the introductory address was made by J. J. Owen, editor of the *GOLDEN GATE*. A committee, consisting of S. A. Bishop, James T. Murphy and Mr. Walcott was appointed, and several slates showed writing after being sealed up. A stranger from San Francisco brought his own slates and he received communications upon them in writing.

To state the details of all that occurred at said meeting would occupy more space than we have to give to it. It may be sufficient to know that the committee prepared and sealed the slates in the most careful manner, never for a moment allowing them to leave their hands. A large number of messages was not only obtained between these slates, but one pair of large slates, securely fastened together and sealed, and brought to the meeting by a person in the audience, had both of their inner surfaces written full. One of the messages on these slates, from Spirit John Gray, was written in seven colors. Thus, six slates in all, containing about one hundred distinct messages, ranging from a few to as many as eighty words, were given, together with a fine likeness of Dr. Hare, and all under conditions that would render deception impossible. Some of the messages contained several names, and nearly all of them were recognized by persons in the audience.

The *San Jose News* and *San Jose Herald* of March 14th, also the *Mercury* and *Times* of the same place of March 15th, gives long and fair reports of the meeting, and all confirming the essential facts set forth of the exhibition as a whole, we venture to say that it is unparalleled in the history of modern spiritualism for its conclusive demonstration of spirit power.

SEALED SLATES.

EDITORIAL GOLDEN GATE, Jan. 29, 1887.

A few weeks ago we received a package containing sealed slates from Mr. J. M. Harper, of Colfax, W. T., with a request that we sit with Fred Evans for independent slate-writing.

The outer covering being also sealed we did not remove it, but held the package with Mr. Evans just as we received it, returning it in the same way by simply re-directing it. At the same time we sent a request to the sender that he inform us of the nature of the contents, if any writing came. A day or two ago we received a letter from Mr. Harper in which he says. "Having just received the sealed slates 'this evening (Jan. 18th) that we recently sent to you, as proxy to have presented to 'the medium, Fred Evans, which you so kindly offered to do—on opening them we find they are both filled on each side, with cheerful, loving words, from our kindred and friends from over the joyful river of life. In preparing the slates before sealing them, we simply wrote a request on each slate as follows—on brother's he wrote: 'I wish to hear from some friend or relative, if any is present. Milton C. Harper.' On his we find a message from our departed brother, James Harper with hopeful promises of soon being able to manifest himself in our own families. On my own I simply wrote: 'I wish to hear from some spirit friend. J. M. Harper.' And in response I received both sides filled with communications from friends over the bright river."

"MONEY COULD NOT BUY THEM."—A correspondent of the *Spiritual Offering*, William Hunt of Iowa, writes as follows: "While in San Francisco, Cal., (a stranger) I saw a sign, 'Fred Evans, Independent Slate-writer.' I spoke a few words only, viz: 'Are you the medium? I want a sitting.' He turned three clean slates down on the table and we clasped hands over them; in a very short time I found three loving messages in three different hand-writings, one from my mother and two from two daughters. They are neat and complete. I know their hand-writing, and can swear that no mortal in the earthly body wrote them or any part of them. The medium and I were the only ones present. I have the slates yet, and money would not buy them. He then said I might call in a friend and he would give a test. He handed us a clean slate for inspection, then threw it on the carpet five or six feet from him, saying: 'Put your foot on it.' He soon said, 'Take it up.' There was nine lines, all different colors, signed, 'J. Hunt.' I have been quite skeptical of writing without human agency; now I know that the unseen can and do write."

Abridged from the *St. Helena Star*.

A FAIR OFFER.

Zamloch, the magician, has been giving imitations of spirit phenomena in St. Helena, during the past fortnight. Dr. John Allyn, of that town, requested permission to come before his audience and show wherein the counterfeit differed from the genuine. As his receipts were running low, and as he saw in the proposed arrangement the prospect of a crowded house, Zamloch wisely consented. The house was packed, as was expected, and Dr. Allyn presented his facts in a forcible and impressive manner. He related the particulars of a slate-writing seance he had held with Fred Evans, at which he obtained several messages between sealed slates, and concluded by reading the following paper:

ST. HELENA, May 18, 1885.

For the purpose of stimulating investigation into the fact and significance of certain slate-writings had by the undersigned on the 3d of May, 1886, with Fred Evans, I make the following offer: To any sleight of hand performer who will show that said writings were done by trickery or fraud, or will do the same on equally test conditions and explain the same, \$1,000. To any scientist who will do the same by any forces known to science, or any law unknown to science hitherto, and prove the same, \$1,000. In all of these cases the fact and hypothesis of Spiritualism must be excluded.

JOHN ALLYN.

Two friends of the writer—prominent business men of San Rafael—who had never witnessed any independent slate-writing, accompanied us, on Sunday last, to the residence of the medium, Fred Evans, to whom both gentlemen were entire strangers. Each of the three took into his own hands a pair of slates which he *knew* contained no writing thereon. Each held his own slate free from the contact of other hands, and each received messagers within the slates purporting to come from the unseen world. Will Brother Seaver, of the Boston Investigator, tell us we were all deceived?

NEW YORK BEACON LIGHT, Oct. 30, 1886.

Mr. Fred Evans of 1224 Mission Street, San Francisco, Cal., is astonishing the people of the Pacific Slope by his wonderful independent slate-writings, made under absolutely test conditions.

[From the GOLDEN GATE, May 8, 1885.]

THE annexed is a *facsimile*—the slate being reduced about one-fifth in size—some independent slate-writing obtained through the mediumship of Mr. Fred. Evans, of 1244 Mission Street, San Francisco, at a private seance given to the editor of the GOLDEN GATE and a few of his friends, on Friday evening, April 2, 1886.

There were present at this seance fourteen persons in all, besides the medium and his wife. Six of those present were entire strangers to the medium, who also had no previous knowledge as to the proposed attendance of any members of the circle, with the exception of the writer and two others. There were no ballots written, and care was taken that the names of the strangers present should not be made known to the medium. Therefore no introductions were had; nevertheless, all present, save two, received messages upon the slate, some receiving two and three. The names given of the spirit friends of the person unknown to the medium, is a most convincing test of spirit power.

The manner of the writing was as follows: A committee of two was appointed to see that the slates were properly cleaned and sealed. This was done first by thoroughly rubbing the slates with a damp cloth, and then, after placing a few minute bits of pencil between them, they were sealed together with sealing-wax at the edges. The committee then tied a cord around the slates and hung them to the gas jet in the center of the room. In a few moments the rapid moving of the pencil tips was distinctly heard, and in about four minutes light rapping announced that the writing was completed. The committee then removed the cord and seals, when the inner surface of one of the slates was found written over, as seen above.

Some of the messages show carelessness of construction; but no more so, perhaps, than they would if written by a like number of mortals of average intelligence. The messages show distinct styles of chirography. And what may be regarded as a significant fact is, that, as far as known, the writing is the same in appearance as that given by the same spirits through other slate-writing mediums.

Take for instance, the message in the left upper corner, signed "Josephine." (The word closely resembling "Mother" in the address, was "Mattie," in the original, the name of the wife of the editor of this journal—evidently a mistake of the engraver.) Mrs. Owens has received messages from her sister Josephine through three slate-writing mediums—one in New Orleans—and the writing was alike in all instances. Such, also is the case with the message in the right hand upper corner, purporting to come from the spirit father of the writer.

The profile sketch in the lower corner to the right, is not a bad representation of a life-size bust of the writer's spirit father, by Anderson, which hangs in our office.

It is not claimed that this writing was done, in all instances, or even in any instance, by the spirit giving the name. Much of it, no doubt, is done by the medium's control, or by spirits skilled in the manipulation of the pencil tips; and such spirits act as mediums for those less proficient in the matter. This explains the poor grammar and orthography sometimes witnessed in communications from spirits who, in earth life, we know would never have committed such mistakes.

That the writing, in the above instance, was produced in the precise manner we have stated, fairly and without collusion of any kind, all present at the seance will affirm to be true. One evidence of its genuineness is conclusive is this, that Mr. Evans could not have known who were to be present, for that was a secret with the writer; hence, there could have been no previous preparation of the slates. Another

festation. It has only been a few weeks since they commenced holding public seances for this phase of the phenomena, but already are their seances largely attended, and very great interest is taken therein. From the first they have manifested a willingness to submit to every reasonable test condition, even to the extent of allowing the editor of this journal to sit in the cabinet while the materializations were taking place.

That these young and wonderful mediums are destined to make a stir in the world is certain as that Spiritualism is a mighty truth.

FRED EVANS.

Independent Writing Medium.

BY ALBERT MORTON IN CARRIER DOVE.

MR. EVANS is a native of Liverpool, Eng., in which city he was born on the 9th of June, 1862. His first experience in

commenced attending spiritual seances in October, 1884, which resulted in sittings for the development of powers; he was informed he possessed. The rapid unfoldment of his powers was marked, and in February, 1885, by advice of his spirit friends he gave up other pursuits and devoted himself to the public exercise of his mediumship as an independent slate writer.

In the following September, he was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Hance, an excellent professional trance and test medium, and shortly thereafter removed to his present abiding place and office, 1244 Mission Street.

The following account of a seance with Mr. Evans, was published in the columns of our highly esteemed contemporary, the *Golden Gate*, on the 19th of December, 1885, and is justly entitled

"A CRUCIAL TEST."

Our mediumistic friend, Mr. Fred Evans, the independent slate-writer, of 1244 Mission Street, took our article in last week's *Golden Gate*, entitled "How it is Said to be Done," as pointing to himself, as he was the only slate-writing medium in the city whose methods were similar to those mentioned in said article, the alleged explanation of which, as given to us, was described therein.

Now, we claim that no honest medium need fear the most rigid scrutiny into his methods. He need not hesitate to subject himself to the most careful conditions compatible with the laws of spirit manifestations. And such a medium Mr. Evans has proven himself to be. He offered to come to our office and upon our own slates, prepared in our own way, subject his mediumistic powers to such crucial test as we might direct. He could promise nothing, but he was willing to try. Surely, this was all any reasonable investigator could ask.

Accordingly, on Monday last, he came to this office where we were provided with our own slates. Two gentlemen, friends of the editor, having casually dropped in, were present. We asked him if he preferred to sit with us alone. He replied that he would so prefer, but should not presume to dictate—that we could have our friends present if we chose. We explained to them the object of the seance, and asked them to remain, as, if there was any deception practiced—which we are sure there was not—it would be more difficult to confound three pair of eyes than one.

We took the slates, and after carefully washing and drying them, we placed two or three bits of pencil upon one of the slates, covering it with the other. Mr. Evans then placed his hands upon the slates, the other gentlemen present doing likewise, thus holding the slates in the grasp of four pair of hands. After a few minutes tiny raps were heard upon the slates, and the pencils were also heard to be moving. Upon opening the slates, which the writer was careful to do himself, we found a number of pencil marks, with the letters "J. O." The marks were effaced and the slates were again held as before, when the writing was more distinctly heard. This time an intelligible message appeared, the words being somewhat scrawled and scattered over the inner surface of the slates. They were as follows: "It is true this can not be trick. Your father."

Of the fact of the genuineness of this writing we have no more doubt than we have of our own existence. There was no table used; everything was fair and above board, and the light was that of noonday. Both the gentleman present, one of whom, Mr. Harrison of Gilroy, was a stranger to Mr. Evans, are alike positive with us that no fraud was possible under the conditions imposed. We really expected to get no writing, as Mr. Evans was very nervous, evidently keenly feeling the suspicion of dishonesty of which he suspected he had been accused.

It is well understood by those familiar with physical phenomena, that absolute test conditions interpose a barrier of positive magnetism between the medium and the manifestations, difficult for the spirits to overcome; hence, the manifestations are never as complete, under such conditions, as where the medium is left free and untrammelled; but to the skeptic they are vastly more satisfactory.

We will add, that Mr. Evans is a young man, being about twenty-two years of age. He has been a medium for independent slate-writing only since February last. That he possesses most remarkable mediumistic powers, is, with us, henceforth beyond question. His wife (*nee* Miss Hance), to whom he was recently married, is also a remarkable trance and test medium.

Although arrangements had been partially made with Mr. Evans for the publication of



is in the fact that he never touched the slates after they had been prepared by the committee.

Mr. Evans is a young man, twenty-three years of age, boyish in appearance, frank, courteous and ingenuous in manner. He was developed as a slate-writing medium only about a year and a half ago. It came to him after several months of daily sittings, and just as he was about to give up the attempt as a failure. His powers have been tested by hundreds of persons, and often under the most crucial test conditions—sometimes producing the writing within riveted slates, frequently without the contact of hand; and often obtaining messages on slips of paper placed within sealed bottles.

A few months ago he was happily married to Miss Agnes Hance, a sensible, intelligent and handsome young trance and test medium, and who, since their marriage, has developed a very high order of mediumship for form mani-

mediumship occurred in his seventh year when he saw what he now believes to be the materialized spirit of a venerable man approach to his bedside, and felt the gentle pressure of the spirit's hand upon his head, soon after disappearing as mysteriously as it first made its presence manifest.

At the age of thirteen the medium entered upon a seaman's life, which pursuit he followed for seven years, visiting many seaports in the four quarters of the world.

During this period of time he had several experiences which gave evidences of his possession of the mediumistic powers of prevision, clairvoyance and physical phenomena but he had no knowledge of spiritualism until beginning his investigations of the subject in this city, where he located, giving up a seafarer's life in 1883.

Through the solicitations of a friend, he

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Mr. Fred Evans of 1244 Mission Street, San Francisco, Cal., is astonishing the people of the Pacific Slope by his wonderful independent slate-writings, made under absolutely test conditions.

[From the GOLDEN GATE, May 8, 1886.]

THE annexed is a *fac simile*—the slate being reduced about one-fifth in size—some independent slate-writing obtained through the mediumship of Mr. Fred. Evans, of 1244 Mission Street, San Francisco, at a private seance given to the editor of the GOLDEN GATE and a few of his friends, on Friday evening, April 2, 1886.

There were present at this seance fourteen persons in all, besides the medium and his wife. Six of those present were entire strangers to the medium, who also had no previous knowledge as to the proposed attendance of any members of the circle, with the exception of the writer and two others. There were no ballots written, and care was taken that the names of the strangers present should not be made known to the medium. Therefore no introductions were had; nevertheless, all present, save two, received messages upon the slate, some receiving two and three. The names given of the spirit friends of the person unknown to the medium, is a most convincing test of spirit power.

The manner of the writing was as follows: A committee of two was appointed to see that the slates were properly cleaned and sealed. This was done first by thoroughly rubbing the slates with a damp cloth, and then, after placing a few minute bits of pencil between them, they were sealed together with sealing-wax at the edges. The committee then tied a cord around the slates and hung them to the gas jet in the center of the room. In a few moments the rapid moving of the pencil tips was distinctly heard, and in about four minutes light rapping announced that the writing was completed. The committee then removed the cord and seals, when the inner surface of one of the slates was found written over, as seen above.

Some of the messages show carelessness of construction; but no more so, perhaps, than they would if written by a like number of mortals of average intelligence. The messages show distinct styles of chirography. And what may be regarded as a significant fact is, that, as far as known, the writing is the same in appearance as that given by the same spirits through other slate-writing mediums.

Take for instance, the message in the left upper corner, signed "Josephine." (The word closely resembling "Mother" in the address, was "Mattie," in the original, the name of the wife of the editor of this journal—evidently a mistake of the engraver.) Mrs. Owens has received messages from her sister Josephine through three slate-writing mediums—one in New Orleans—and the writing was alike in all instances. Such, also is the case with the message in the right hand upper corner, purporting to come from the spirit father of the writer.

The profile sketch in the lower corner to the right, is not a bad representation of a life-size bust of the writer's spirit father, by Anderson, which hangs in our office.

It is not claimed that this writing was done, in all instances, or even in any instance, by the spirit giving the name. Much of it, no doubt, is done by the medium's control, or by spirits skilled in the manipulation of the pencil tips; and such spirits act as mediums for those less proficient in the matter. This explains the poor grammar and orthography sometimes witnessed in communications from spirits who, in earth life, we know would never have committed such mistakes.

That the writing, in the above instance, was produced in the precise manner we have stated, fairly and without collusion of any kind, all present at the seance will affirm to be true. One evidence of its genuineness is conclusive is this, that Mr. Evans could not have known who were to be present, for that was a secret with the writer; hence, there could have been no previous preparation of the slates. Another

festation. It has only been a few weeks since they commenced holding public seances for this phase of the phenomena, but already are their seances largely attended, and very great interest is taken therein. From the first they have manifested a willingness to submit to every reasonable test condition, even to the extent of allowing the editor of this journal to sit in the cabinet while the materializations were taking place.

That these young and wonderful mediums are destined to make a stir in the world is certain as that Spiritualism is a mighty truth.

FRED EVANS.

Independent Writing Medium.

BY ALBERT MORTON IN CARRIER DOVE.

R. EVANS is a native of Liverpool, Eng., in which city he was born on the 9th of June, 1862. His first experience in

commenced attending spiritual seances in October, 1884, which resulted in sittings for the development of powers; he was informed he possessed. The rapid unfoldment of his powers was marked, and in February, 1885, by advice of his spirit friends he gave up other pursuits and devoted himself to the public exercise of his mediumship as an independent slate writer.

In the following September, he was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Hance, an excellent professional trance and test medium, and shortly thereafter removed to his present abiding place and office, 1244 Mission Street.

The following account of a seance with Mr. Evans, was published in the columns of our highly esteemed contemporary, the *Golden Gate*, on the 19th of December, 1885, and is justly entitled

"A CRUCIAL TEST."

Our mediumistic friend, Mr. Fred Evans, the independent slate-writer, of 1244 Mission Street, took our article in last week's *Golden Gate*, entitled "How it is Said to be Done," as pointing to himself, as he was the only slate-writing medium in the city whose methods were similar to those mentioned in said article, the alleged explanation of which, as given to us, was described therein.

Now, we claim that no honest medium need fear the most rigid scrutiny into his methods. He need not hesitate to subject himself to the most careful conditions compatible with the laws of spirit manifestations. And such a medium Mr. Evans has proven himself to be. He offered to come to our office and upon our own slates, prepared in our own way, subject his mediumistic powers to such crucial test as we might direct. He could promise nothing, but he was willing to try. Surely, this was all any reasonable investigator could ask.

Accordingly, on Monday last, he came to this office where we were provided with our own slates. Two gentlemen, friends of the editor, having casually dropped in, were present. We asked him if he preferred to sit with us alone. He replied that he would so prefer, but should not presume to dictate—that we could have our friends present if we chose. We explained to them the object of the seance, and asked them to remain, as, if there was any deception practiced—which we are sure there was not—it would be more difficult to confound three pair of eyes than one.

We took the slates, and after carefully washing and drying them, we placed two or three bits of pencil upon one of the slates, covering it with the other. Mr. Evans then placed his hands upon the slates, the other gentlemen present doing likewise, thus holding the slates in the grasp of four pair of hands. After a few minutes tiny raps were heard upon the slates, and the pencils were also heard to be moving. Upon opening the slates, which the writer was careful to do himself, we found a number of pencil marks, with the letters "J. O." The marks were effaced and the slates were again held as before, when the writing was more distinctly heard. This time an intelligible message appeared, the words being somewhat scrawled and scattered over the inner surface of the slates. They were as follows: "It is true this can not be trick. Your father."

Of the fact of the genuineness of this writing we have no more doubt than we have of our own existence. There was no table used; everything was fair and above board, and the light was that of noonday. Both the gentleman present, one of whom, Mr. Harrison of Gilroy, was a stranger to Mr. Evans, are alike positive with us that no fraud was possible under the conditions imposed. We really expected to get no writing, as Mr. Evans was very nervous, evidently keenly feeling the suspicion of dishonesty of which he suspected he had been accused.

It is well understood by those familiar with physical phenomena, that absolute test conditions interpose a barrier of positive magnetism between the medium and the manifestations, difficult for the spirits to overcome; hence, the manifestations are never as complete, under such conditions, as where the medium is left free and untrammelled; but to the skeptic they are vastly more satisfactory.

We will add, that Mr. Evans is a young man, being about twenty-two years of age. He has been a medium for independent slate-writing only since February last. That he possesses most remarkable mediumistic powers, is, with us, henceforth beyond question. His wife (nee Miss Hance), to whom he was recently married, is also a remarkable trance and test medium.

Although arrangements had been partially made with Mr. Evans for the publication of



is in the fact that he never touched the slates after they had been prepared by the committee.

Mr. Evans is a young man, twenty-three years of age, boyish in appearance, frank, courteous and ingenuous in manner. He was developed as a slate-writing medium only about a year and a half ago. It came to him after several months of daily sittings, and just as he was about to give up the attempt as a failure. His powers have been tested by hundreds of persons, and often under the most crucial test conditions—sometimes producing the writing within riveted slates, frequently without the contact of hand; and often obtaining messages on slips of paper placed within sealed bottles.

A few months ago he was happily married to Miss Agnes Hance, a sensible, intelligent and handsome young woman, a trance and test medium, and who, since their marriage, has developed a very high order of mediumship for form mani-

mediumship occurred in his seventh year when he saw what he now believes to be the materialized spirit of a venerable man approach to his bedside, and felt the gentle pressure of the spirit's hand upon his head, soon after disappearing as mysteriously as it first made its presence manifest.

At the age of thirteen the medium entered upon a seaman's life, which pursuit he followed for seven years, visiting many seaports in the four quarters of the world.

During this period of time he had several experiences which gave evidences of his possession of the mediumistic powers of prevision, clairvoyance and physical phenomena but he had no knowledge of spiritualism until beginning his investigations of the subject in this city, where he located, giving up a seafarer's life in 1883.

Through the solicitations of a friend, he

his portrait, and the sketch of his mediumistic career, before control of this department of the *Carrier Dove* was placed in my charge, it was with feelings of reluctance induced by unfavorable reports brought to me, that I acquiesced in presenting the matter to our readers.

However, the foregoing article by a gentleman in whose judgment—based upon his personal experiences—I place implicit confidence, removed all feelings of hesitation, I frankly expressed my feelings to Mr. Evans, and he proposed to give me personal evidence of his powers.

In accordance with our engagement, on the 5th of March, I held a seance with Mr. Evans at his office, and the results were gratifying beyond my expectations. Having been on intimate relations for years, and for several weeks an inmate of the home, and a daily witness of the phenomena given through one of the most celebrated slate-writing mediums in the world, it does not seem presumptuous in me to consider myself qualified to give reliable testimony as to my experience.

Being seated at his table, the medium asked if ballots were to be written, to which I replied, "I prefer to leave the matter to the judgment of the spirits—let them present such evidence as they deem best." The four slates used were thoroughly washed and dried under my inspection; were entirely free from writing, and were not out of my sight until wrapped up for me at the close of the seance. The medium placed a fragment of slate-pencil on the lower slate, then placing another slate above it, the two were tied together and held by me until requested to examine them. After sitting a few minutes the medium released his hold upon the slates and taking another one, cleaned it, and then put a fragment of pencil upon the carpet about three feet from the table, within the range of my sight; shortly afterward he cleaned a fourth slate and placed it over a fragment of pencil on the table near my right side, placing a writing tray upon it. We sat for several minutes, during which time telegraphic raps—which the medium proposed to read impressionally—were given upon different parts of the table, in answer to questions, and, after the expiration of about twenty minutes Mr. Evans leaned back in his chair, saying, "Please open the slates; I think they have written." Untying the slates in my possession I separated them and found a piece of pencil upon the lower one which bore traces of having been used. Upon the lower side of the upper slate was a message, written with great regularity and in remarkably fine writing. The message—although of a private and very laudatory nature—it is necessary to give for obvious reasons, and was as follows:

"Albert, my dear boy, I am happy to write these few lines to you, and feel that your long and hard fight for the cause of Spiritualism will soon meet with its just reward. You have sown the seed of reform in the cause of Spiritualism, and you will yet live on earth to reap what you have sown. For years you have striven to do what your reason decided was right, and you can look forward to a bright and happy mansion in the spirit world, for have you not built it? Both you and your dear wife have done much to enlighten humanity, and spirits and mortals have much to bless you both for. There are many spirits here who wish to be kindly remembered to you and your dear wife.

Among them are your wife's dear control, Dr. Rush; your old friend Charles Foster, who has lately joined our spirit band, and who will soon control your dear wife. Thomas Star King is also here, and joins with us in sending love and best wishes to you and yours; and may your stay on earth be happy, is the earnest wish of lovingly and waiting,

E. MORTON."

I then raised the slate from the floor—the medium declining to touch any of the slates until the writing was displayed—and found this message, written in a large free hand:

"MY DEAR FRIEND MORTON:—I am happy to come back and say a few words to you. I

have been watching you in your work of writing my works, and I thank you for your brotherly feelings towards me. I feel relieved in my spirit home, and have nothing to grieve for in my spirit home. I will control your wife in a new phase as soon as I become more spiritualized.

Your friend and well-wisher,
CHARLES FOSTER."

The medium then requested me to examine the slate laid upon the table. Removing the tray, upon the under side of the slate I found this message:

"FRIEND MORTON:—With pleasure I respond to your call for spirit communication, and wish you and your dear companion in life every success, for I know you both deserve it. There is much for you both to do before you join us, and you will have my every aid for your success. This from DR. RUSH."

The writing upon each slate was of an entirely dissimilar style from the others, and was not upon them when placed in the positions from which I removed them as stated. Admitting for the time that the medium had read the sketch of Mrs. Morton's life in the January number of the *Carrier Dove*, and had learned therefrom our association with Dr. Rush, and may have known of my writing a sketch of C. H. Foster, for the March number of the same magazine, also considering the omission of the initial in Foster's name, no more remarkable than the leaving out the given name of Dr. Benjamin Rush, which had been made public, the identity of the spirits communicating might reasonably be questioned; but still the evidence of the presence of an unseen, intelligent power was irrefragable. By my request the medium permitted me to retain the slates and I was preparing to retire when he exclaimed, "Doctor, the power with us is very strong and I would like to try an experiment with you," protesting at the time his doubts of success.

Taking a small piece of paper, which I saw was free from writing, the medium cut a portion in zig-zag form from it and handed me the smaller part which I folded and placed in my pocket. He then folded the other portion of the paper into a small compass and forced it into a two-ounce, wide-mouthed, glass vial, and closed it with a paper stopper. A common glass stand containing ink was placed beside the vial, and a silk handkerchief thrown over both. My hands encircled the vial and ink-stand and we waited for results; shortly the medium exclaimed, "Stop, I've forgotten something," and raising a portion of the handkerchief, he dropped a steel pen into the ink bottle. After sitting a few minutes Mr. Evans concluded "they" had finished, and by his request I lifted the handkerchief, upon which my hands had rested; removing the stopper from the vial, picked therefrom the folded paper, opened it and found the irregularities where cut corresponded exactly with that portion which had not left my possession.

Written upon the paper taken from the vial, with ink still damp, was the following message:

"MY DEAR FRIEND MORTON:—I am happy to give you these few lines as a test of spirit power and will soon demonstrate much wonderful phenomena through the mediumship of your wife. My kind wishes to all inquiring friends, Your friend in spirit,

CHARLES FOSTER."

How a piece of paper, about three and a quarter by three and a half inches square, and folded twice each way, could be written upon inside a vial as regularly as though done under ordinary conditions without transference of the damp ink upon the opposite side of the paper with which it was in contact, is to be a mystery, which will be solved by some by a flat denial that it did occur. That the writing upon the slates and upon the paper in the vial occurred precisely as I have stated is a fact within my knowledge. Taking the slate I returned to my studio, and at the usual hour went home. My wife inquired as to the contents of my package, to which I reply: "I have seen

Evans, and want a sitting after dinner; after that I will tell you." The identity of the signer of the first communication puzzled me, and I did not wish to give my wife any information which might—as some would think—affect her mind, and color the message given through her.

At a sitting in the evening, when my wife was unconscious, and "Milly," her control, speaking for others, Dr. Rush and Foster avowed the production of the slate writing to be theirs. I then asked Foster if the writing in the vial was his, to which he replied, "Of course it was. That's as easy as any writing if one understands the chemical laws. Don't you know everything is porous?" I dropped that subject and asked Milly, "Who wrote the Morton message?" to which she replied, "I don't know; there are a great many here with that name." Again I asked: "Can it be the Uncle Edwin who died more than 40 years ago?" The answer was, "No; he was older than that, I mean, he died longer ago; he says in the last century. He has a funny name; it is Eb-Ebenazar."

The name was not familiar, but looking up the skeleton of a pedigree I learned that four generations backward my ancestor, Ebenazar Morton was born in Middleborough, Mass., in 1696. When this discovery was announced my antiquated progenitor seemed overjoyed to make the personal acquaintance of his grandson, and shook my hand heartily.

No evidence of others as to what has been done, or may transpire at subsequent seances can contravene the evidence of my own senses as to the production of the writing on the slates and paper by unseen intelligent powers; and the statements made to me by spirits with whom I have been in intimate relations for many years, through a medium I know to be conscientious in her spiritual work is to me sufficient evidence of the identity of the spirits purporting to give the manifestations. If the medium continues to act in as conscientious a manner as in the two cases cited, he will richly deserve; and will receive the earnest commendations and support of all earnest investigators; and his labors will be a comfort and blessing to many sorrowing friends.

A CRUCIAL TEST.

MR. VARNUM WESCOTT, of Soledad, California, on Wednesday, January 6th, purchased in San Francisco, two common school slates, about 8x12 inches in size. He took them to a carpenter, placed a bit of pencil between, and had him fasten the slates securely together with two screws passed through the frames on the sides. In this condition he took the slates to Mr. Fred Evans, 1244 Mission Street. The slates were never for a moment out of his (Wescott's) sight or hands. On opening the slates the following messages appeared within, covering both the inner surfaces of the slates:

God bless you, my dear friend of the earth plane. I am happy to give you this final proof of the truth of spirit return, and wish you to herald it to the world that they might seek the truth also; I am sorry to see so many who are supposed to be friends to the cause, who refuse to acknowledge the wonderful proofs they have received, thus keeping others, who have not enjoyed the privilege, in darkness. But you must be an exception to this rule and make the glad news known to the world so that others can receive the light. You have plenty of work to do before you join us. Yours in spirit,
THOMAS PAINE.

MY DEAR FRIEND WESCOTT:—You have my heartfelt wishes for your success, and depend on it, my promise to aid you will not be broken. Yours in spirit, W. H. PATTERSON.

MY DEAR SON VARNUM:—I am happy to meet you here this morning, and feel happy

to see that your intentions are to work for the cause, and seeking all that is good and true. Prove to the world the happiness of a future life and immortality of the soul.

This from your loving mother,
BETSEY WESCOTT.

UNCLE VARNUM:—I am with you.
Your nephew,
JASPER PERIGO.

I am so happy to add another item to the truth of Spiritualism, and hope soon to manifest and prove it to the world through you.

Your brother,
GEORGE WESCOTT.

DEAR FRIEND:—You have my best wishes in your noble work of enlightening humanity. You will have my every aid. Good-bye,
CARRIE MILLER.

Having read the foregoing statement and messages, I declare, upon oath, that the messages are true copies of those appearing upon the slates, and that they were written in the manner stated.
VARNUM WESCOTT.

In presence of Jno. F. Lyons.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
City and County of San Francisco. } ss

On this 7th day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, before me, John F. Lyons, a Notary Public in and for said city and county, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Varnum Wescott, known to me to be the person described in, and whose name is subscribed to, and who executed the within instrument, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in the city and county of San Francisco, the day and year in this certificate first above written.

[SEAL.]

JNO. F. LYONS,
Notary Public.

Committee Report.

WE, the undersigned committee chosen by the audience at a public exhibition of independent slate-writing, given by Mr. Fred Evans at Washington Hall, on Sunday, June 21, 1885, testify that the slates used were washed and sealed in our presence and to our satisfaction, and during the time the slates were in use they were not removed from our sight. We distinctly heard the fragments of pencil between the slates writing, whilst holding them in our hands. When the writing was finished, which was denoted by three raps on the slates, Mr. R. B. Hall was selected by the audience to break the seals on the slate. When separated one of them was completely covered with writing in patchwork form, embracing thirty communications, all in different hand writing. Each member of the committee received messages signed by relatives or departed friends; the remainder of the messages were recognized by different persons in the audience.

The exhibition was given in daylight before an audience of about 400 persons, and under the condition which excluded all chance of trickery or fraud.

DR. THOS. C. KELLEY, 946 Mission st.
MRS. F. C. LANE, 3010 Folsom st.
WILLIAM KELLEY, 202 Second st.

A prominent physician of San Francisco, who was wont to speak of Spiritualism as a delusive humbug, has met with some experience in independent slate-writing at Fred Evans', that have staggered his skepticism, and opened his eyes to the fact that there are more things in heaven and earth than were ever dreamed of in his philosophy. And so it goes; they are coming by scores to a realization of the truth

