Independent Slate-writing

Through the Mediumship of

FRED EVANS

139 OCTAVIA ST. San Francisco, Cal.

Independent Slate-writing

Through the Mediumship of Fred Evans, San Francisco.

(From the Golden Gate.)

The annexed is a few slates 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 he capable of writing such a slate as this; and to suppose that the various writings and languages could have been placed therein 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 executing 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 three persons above mentioned were present. Sitting at a table, in the presence of the editor and his wife, Mr. Evans explained to him our object, inquiring if it was his pleasure to do the same; answering our questions either by writing or oral, as the case might be. He at once entered heartily into our plans.

He at once entered heartily into our plans. His medium has learned to read (or by writing his medium has taught him to read), or by writing a medium through the medium of Mr. 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 controlling influence requested that we should set aside a slate, writing upon it in this particular lettering and style, and said to us to set about bringing the above spirit friends together and inducing them to write a few words, and 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 session 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 read, a general understanding, that 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 have been writing most remarkably.

The Asiatic languages especially, of which but very few of our own race have acquired any thing more than an imperfect speaking knowledge. A large portion, who can translate, 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.

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

French—Monseur Gray: I have acquired myself of your commission. M. FARMONT. I am to speak to you—think well of all.

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, Agrippinus, we have that grand maxim, “That one is not great only as far as he is just.”

Don Juan Alvello.

Norwegian—I am here. Herre Holle. We.

Chinese—I write a few words for you. Lu Yeon.

Japanese—How do you do? OYAMA GENTUHA.

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 explained 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: ‘Yes, the spirit of man shall live forever.’—Nero, who was an old Egyptian seer. The old Asiatic is the Assyrian cuniform 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 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 knew that the writing was not
have done it, but various persons in the community, Mr. Evans.

Since we are at the stage where a difficulty which all who can write in more languages, but not in Norwegian, etc., be apt to lend himself to such a thing," we say, "Home for the Feeble Minded," provided there were such an institution for adults.

The persons from whom they purport to come; they may have been written by the psychical wonder, Charles H. Foster.

Some of the Many Comments.

Medium and Daybreak, London, Eng, says: We regard the slate with the twelve languages as our readers are aware, as the place for our initial effort, and thither we came forward and disprove the claim.

As confirmatory of the genuineness of the writing upon this slate, we might refer to a graphic guide of Mr. Evans while under control of said spirits—just as a German spirit, and not as our readers are aware, as the place for our initial effort, and thither we came forward and disprove the claim.

The editor of the 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, and not among them, but among many of the languages named. There are probably many who write in more languages, but not in these 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 imagine the number of persons who might readily appreciate.

"Money could not buy them."—A correspondent of the Spiritual Offering, William Horton, San Francisco, Cal., (a stranger) saw a sign.

Fred Evans, Independent Slate-writer. I spoke a few words only, viz: 'Are you the medium Fred Evans? I was simply trying clean slates down on the table and clasped hands over them; in a very short time I found three loving messages in three different handwriting, 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 in hand, and money would not buy them. He said then I might call in a friend and he would give a test. He handed us a clean slate for inspection, then throw it on the carpet five or six feet from him, saying: 'Put your foot on it.' He said, 'Take it up.' There were 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."

A FAIR OFFER.

Zambaco, the magician, has been giving imitations of spirit phenomena in St. Helena, during the past fortnight. Dr. John Allen, 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, Zambaco wisely consented. The house was packed as was expected, and he proceeded to present 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, and concluded by reading the following paper:

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 redenoting 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 an acknowledgment, saying: '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: 'From some spirit friend. J. M. Harper,' and in response I received both sides filled with communications from friends over the "bright river."

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

"CRUCIAL TEST."—A mediumistic friend, Mr. Fred Evans, the independent slate writer, of 1244 Mission Street, sent our article in last week's Golden Gate. It 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 that no honest medium need feel it necessary to submit to such a test. We 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 mediums' 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 their palest 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, and the pencils were also heard to be moving. Upon opening the slates, which the writer was careful to do slowly, we found a number of pencil marks, with the letters "J.," "F."

The writing was then repeated and the same condition of writing was again held as before, when the writing was more distinctly heard. This time an intelligible language appeared on the words he spurned, in a somewhat scrawled and scattered over the inner surface of the slates. They were as follows: "How 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 gentlemen present, one of whom, Mr. Harrison of Gilroy, was a stranger to Mr. Evans, are absolute mediums, and with us there was not a chance possible of the conditions imposed. We really expected to get something; the phenomena was so strong, we 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, the result for the seance to overcome these manifestations are never as complete, under such conditions, as where the medium is left alone, untrammelled, but to the spirit. But they are vastly more satisfactory.

Mr. Evans is a young man, being about twenty-two years of age. He has been a medium for independent slate-writing a little while. That these mediums are developing the most remarkable mediums' powers, is, with our friend's permission, to see Miss Hanoe, to whom he was recently married, is also a remarkable test and means of confirmation.

Although arrangements were partially made with Mr. Evans for the publication of
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, Mr. Evans, to whom both gentlemen were entire strangers. Each of the three took into his own hands the slates which he knew contained no writing thereon. Each held his own slate free from the contact of other hands, and each received messages within the slates, perfectly to come from the unseen world. Will Brother Seaver, of the Boston Investigator, tell us we were all deceived?


Mr. Fred Evans of 1224 Mission Street, San Francisco, is astonished 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 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, receiving two and three. The name given by the spirit 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 there were no tricks with the slate, and that each person could see the slate on which he was to write. The slates were then handed out, each being about the size of a common piece of paper, and as transparent as ordinary slate-writings, made under absolutely test conditions.

Mr. Evans is a native of Liverpool, Eng., in which city he was born on the 9th of June, 1862. His first experience in Independent Writing Medium.

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mutilation. 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 never would 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 conclusiveness in 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 their seances are largely attended, and very great interest is taken therein. From the first, he has 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 Golden Gate.

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 Oct- ober, 1884, which resulted in establishing the development of powers; he was informed he possessed. The rapid unfoldment of his powers checked, and in February, 1885, he found his spirit friends had given up other pursuits and devoted himself to the public exercise of his mediumship as an independent slate writer.

On the following September, he was married 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, San Francisco. The following account of a seance with Mr. Evans, was published in the columns of our high esteemed contemporary, the Golden Gate, on the 16th 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, and others 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. Such a medium Mr. Evans has proven himself to be. He desired to come to our office and have our own slates, prepared in our own way, subject his mentalistic powers to such crucial tests as we might direct. He could promise nothing, but he was willing to try. Surely, this was all any reasonable investigator does.

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 present sitting if we wished, but that it was not—it would be more difficult to confound three pairs of eyes than one.

We took the slates, and after carefully washing and drying them, we placed two or three tiny pencil point upon one of the slates, covered 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 they were held 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."

Mr. Evans offered to come to our office and upon our request, gave us some particulars of his spirit father, by Anderson, who has charge of our office.

It is in the fact that he never touched the slates after they had been prepared by the committee. Mr. Evans is a young man of about twenty years of age, boyish in appearance, frank, courteous and ingenuous in manner. He was spirit's hand upon his head, soon after discharging his duties as a seance medium, November 29, 1884, which resulted in establishing the development of powers; he was informed he possessed. The rapid unfoldment of his powers checked, and in February, 1885, he found his spirit friends had given up other pursuits and devoted himself to the public exercise of his mediumship as an independent slate writer.

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his portrait, and the sketch of his mediæterian career, before control of this department of the Carrier Dome was placed in my charge, it was provided that any facts of importance indicated by unfavorable reports brought to me, that I ascertained by further inquiry and by personal observation, he should be notified of.

However, the foregoing article by a gentleman in whose judgment—base upon his personal experiences—I place implicit confidence, and also from all the feelings of regret I have expressed to Mr. Evans, and he proposed to give me personal evidence of his powers.

At the close of 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 terms with the medium for some years, and an inattendant 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 were placed on the table, and the writing was commenced under my inspection; were entirely free from writings and were not out of my sight until wrapped up for me at the close of the seance. The medium then removed the two slates below, 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 these, unfolded 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 closed the slates, placed it upon the other portion of the table, and the statements made to me by spirits with that name. The medium declining to touch any of the slates and paper by unseen intelligent powers; and the statements made to me by spirits with that name; it is Eb-Ebenezar.

No evidence of others as to what has been done, or may transpire at subsequent seances can counteract 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 that name. The medium continued to act in accordance as a man in two cases, I will richly deserve; and will receive the earnest commendations and support of all earnest spectators; and his labors will be a comfort and blessing to many sorrowing friends.

Mr. VARNUM WESCOTT, of Solon, California, on Wednesday, January 6th, purchased in San Francisco, two common school slates, about 8 inches in size, and upon them were written, in the manner stated. 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 slates. In this condition he took the slates to Mr. Fred Evans, 1844 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 lower slate, and the statements made to me by spirits with that name. The medium declined to touch any of the slates and paper by unseen intelligent powers; and the statements made to me by spirits with that name. The medium continued to act in accordance as a man in two cases, I will richly deserve; and will receive the earnest commendations and support of all earnest spectators; and his labors will be a comfort and blessing to many sorrowing friends.

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