

*Only page to
be used*

REMINISCENCES

OF THE

War of the Rebellion.

Did Abraham Lincoln receive
Aid from the Spirit World?

*Some Extracts from Mrs. Nettie Colburn Maynard's
Book—"Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist?"*

THE seances that I will refer to in this article were held in 1862 by Miss Nettie Colburn, then a young girl, but later Miss Colburn became Mrs. Maynard, who wrote the book from which this extract is made. Miss Colburn, from a very early age had been subject to psychic influences and had become widely known around her home, in White Plains, New York, in Hartford, Conn., and in many other places in the north, as a trance lecturer of great power.

On the occasion of which I will write, she had been called to Washington, D. C., in the interest of a soldier brother who was ill in a hospital, and for whom she was seeking influence to obtain a furlough. While in Washington, through mutual friends, Miss Colburn became known to Mrs. Lincoln and was requested by her to give a seance at the house of a friend of Mrs. Lincoln's in Georgetown. Miss Colburn had arranged to leave Washington the next day, but what was told Mrs. Lincoln at the seance was so in the line of the nation's affairs, that

Mrs. Lincoln insisted on Miss Colburn's deferring her return until she could give a seance at the White House in the presence of the President.

The medium at these seances was always in a deep trance, but a friend, who always accompanied her, reported to her after she recovered consciousness, what had taken place; besides, Mrs. Lincoln always had friends who verified these reports.

From here I will copy what Mrs. Maynard says of herself.

"Some new and powerful influence obtained possession of my organism and addressed Mrs. Lincoln, it seemed, with great clearness and force, on matters of State. For one hour I was under control. When I awoke there was a most earnest and excited group around me discussing what had been said; and Mrs. Lincoln said with great earnestness, 'This young lady must not leave Washington. I feel she must stay, and Mr. Lincoln must hear what we have heard. It is all important and he must hear it. Turning to me she said, 'Don't think of leaving Washington, I beg you, Can you not stay with us?' I briefly explained that my livelihood depended upon my efforts as a speaker, and that there was no opening for me in Washington.' But she said, 'There are other things you can do!'

So, they arranged for her to stay for an indefinite time, and many seances were given at the White House and elsewhere during her stay in Washington. I will now describe her first visit to the White House and her first seance in the presence of Mr. Lincoln. I will describe it in her own words:—

"Mr. and Mrs. Laurie and Mrs. Miller were duly presented. Then I was brought forward and presented. He stood before me, tall and kindly with a smile on his face. Dropping his hand on my head, he said, in a humorous tone, 'So this is our little Nettie is it, that we have heard so much about?' I could only smile and say, Yes sir, like any school girl; when he kindly led me to an ottoman. Sitting down in a chair, the ottoman at his feet, he began asking me questions in a kindly way, about my mediumship; and I think he must have thought me stupid as my answers were little beyond 'Yes and No.' His manner, however, was genial and kind, and it was suggested we form a circle. He said, 'well, how do you do it?' Looking at me, Mr. Laurie came to the rescue, and said, 'we had been accustomed to sit in a circle and join hands; but he did not think it would be necessary in this instance: While he was yet speaking, I lost consciousness of my surroundings and passed under control. For more than an hour I was made to talk to him and I learned from my friends afterward that it was upon matters that he seemed fully to understand, while they comprehended very little until that portion was reached that related to the forthcoming Emancipation Proclamation. He was charged with the utmost solemnity and force of manner not to abate the terms of its issue, and not to delay its enforcement as a law beyond the opening of the year; and he was assured that its was to be the crowning event of his administration and life; and that, while he was being counseled by strong parties to defer the enforcement, hoping to supplant it by other measures, and to delay action, he must in no wise heed such counsel, but stand firm to his convictions and fearlessly perform the work and fulfill the mission for which he had been raised up by an overruling Providence. Those present declared that they lost sight of the timid girl in the majesty of the utterance, the strength and force of the language, and the importance of that which was conveyed and seemed to realize that some strong masculine spirit force was

giving speech to almost divine commands. I shall never forget the scene around me when I regained consciousness. I was standing in front of Mr. Lincoln, and he was sitting back in his chair with his arms folded upon his breast, looking intently at me. I stepped back, naturally confused at the situation—not remembering at once where I was; and glancing around the group, where perfect silence reigned. It took me a moment to remember my whereabouts.

“A gentlemen present then said in a low tone, ‘Mr. President, did you notice anything peculiar in the method of the address?’

“Mr. Lincoln raised himself as if shaking off his spell. He glanced quickly at the full length portrait of Daniel Webster, that hung above the piano and replied, ‘yes, and it is very singular, very!’ with a marked emphasis.

“Mr. Somes said, ‘Mr. President, would it be improper for me to inquire whether there has been any pressure brought to bear upon you to defer the enforcement of the Proclamation?’ To which the President replied: ‘Under these circumstances that question is perfectly proper, as we are all friends (smiling upon the company). It is taking all my nerve and strength to withstand a pressure: At this point the gentlemen drew around him, and spoke together in low tones, Mr. Lincoln saying the least of all. At last he turned to me, and laying his hand upon my head, uttered these words in a manner that I shall never forget: ‘My child, you possess a very singular gift; but that it is of God, I have no doubt. I thank you for coming here tonight. It is more important than perhaps any one present can understand, I must leave you all now, but I hope I shall see you again! He shook me kindly by the hand, bowed to the rest of the company, and was gone. We remained an hour longer, talking with Mrs. Lincoln and her friends, and then returned to Georgetown. Such was my first interview with Abraham Lincoln, and the memory of it is as clear and vivid as the evening on which it occurred.’

The above is an account of one among many seances held by Miss Nettie Colburn in the presence of Mr. Lincoln, and the seances held subsequently, were just as wonderful along the line of advice as to the management of State affairs at very critical periods of the war; and from the accounts given, Mr. Lincoln invariably acted upon the advice thus given, and the results were always as predicted.

Who can read the account given above, and of the numerous other spiritual seances given in the presence of Mr. Lincoln, the accounts of which can be found in the book referred to, and fail to realize of what great moment these communications were, at a time when the life of this great nation seemed to be hanging in a balance. On occasions of seances held by other mediums, at the White House, Mr. Lincoln was warned that his life was being sought. When he was so warned, he replied, ‘I see no other safeguard against Those Murderers than to be always ready to die as Christ advises it. We must all die sooner or later, and it makes very little difference to me whether I die by a dagger thrust through my breast or from inflammation of the lungs.’

Who will deny that Abraham Lincoln was a spiritualist, and who can deny that the spirits were at hand to help and direct him.

Since writing the above the writer has had a slate writing in the presence of the celebrated Slate-writer, Pierre L. O. A. Keeler, of Washington, D. C. On this occasion I wrote a note and held it in my hand asking Daniel Webster

if it was true that he did, through the mediumship of Miss Nettie Colburn, urge Mr. Lincoln to promulgate the Emancipation Proclamation? In a short while I heard writing between the slates and when they were opened (two slates had been tied together) I found the following message over the signature of Daniel Webster.

My Dear Sir:

"Here I am, I wish you were able to spend a little time over here with me. It is most wonderful that we can meet and commune and know that death is not the end of us. I am thoroughly conscious this moment. I shall come to you again someday. I did give, through N. C. M., the famous Lincoln Emancipation Proclamation message."

"W. H. Plummer, Esq. Truly, Daniel Webster."

Following the above message came one from A. Lincoln, unexpected and unasked for—

"Dear Sir:

"I have found out that Daniel Webster inspired the Emancipation Proclamation.

"Mrs. Surratt was an innocent woman. Her persecutors here have suffered more than she did from the time she was born till her career ended at the end of the rope" "A. Lincoln."

I will also copy from the slate what Mrs. Surratt wrote which was wonderful and astonishing to me.

"Dear Sir:"

Why did not Andrew Johnson save my life? It was sweet to me and my brilliant daughter needed me. I had nothing to do with the plot against Mr. Lincoln. My choking to death on the rope was horrible. It seemed months to me." "Mary E. Surratt."

The Nettie Maynard Book is out of print and we can furnish but a very limited number at \$2.00 a copy postpaid.

These folders furnished at 10 cts. postpaid or \$5.00 per 100.

W. H. Plummer, Publisher.

Relay, Md.

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