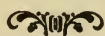


LINCOLN  
WAS A  
SPIRITUALIST

*By* J. J. FITZGERRELL



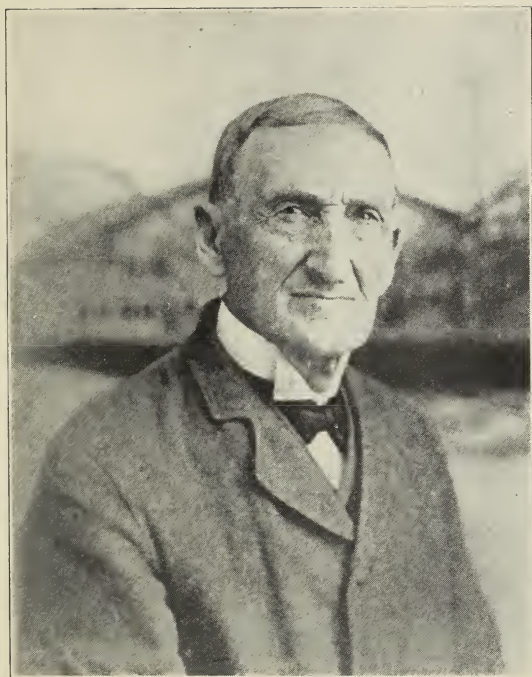
THE RELIGION  
OF  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

*By* B. F. AUSTIN

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By J. J. FITZGERRELL



JAMES J. FITZGERRELL

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The Author of this book

JAMES J. FITZGERRELL

*Adjutant, 81st Illinois Infantry, Volunteers*

now a member of the Soldier's Home, California, at the age of 81 years, having retired from business

### RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS

that all readers of this book will use their power and influence in the sale of the book, that the public generally throughout the United States shall know the truth, not now generally known, that Abraham Lincoln recognized the guidance of the spirit world during the four years of the Civil War, that saved this nation from Anarchy and ruin.

The Churches only state that Abraham Lincoln did not belong to any church.

Address, DR. B. F. AUSTIN, 4522 St. Charles Road,  
Los Angeles, California.

## Introductory

A record of happenings that prove this physical body changes once in about seven years, and is only a vehicle through which the Spirit, Mind, Soul Body functions. At *Death* the Physical Body disintregates, returning to Dust—while the Spirit, Mind, Soul Body lives on, taking up its future life work, that will lead to the greatest amount of happiness in the oncoming ages of the *eternal future, in aiding and assisting others.*

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. FITZGERRELL.

Address,

P. O. Box No. 397.

Soldiers Home, California.

## Lincoln was a Spiritualist

My first recollection as a small boy was that of listening to the sermons preached by my Grand Father, the Rev. Joseph Hartley, one of the leading (Hardshell) Regular Baptist Preachers in Southern Illinois, Jefferson County.

Standing in the Pulpit, he would reverently lay his hands on the Bible, and say:—"This is the BIBLE, GOD'S WORD, EVERY WORD IN THE BIBLE IS TRUE, IF NOT THE TRUTH, IT WOULD NOT BE GOD'S WORD, GOD'S WORD IS THE TRUTH."

I remember often hearing him preach from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, Chapter No. 1, that clearly teaches "PREDESTINATION IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME," etc, etc.

At the age of fourteen years my father died. I was the oldest of seven children, the next two of the children were girls, so my time was taken up to look after and assist my Mother in the care of the 320 acre farm, all fenced, especially during the harvest season, when much additional labor was required in harvesting the large crops of small grain.

With the outbreak of the CIVIL WAR, in 1861, there was much excitement, with the great majority of the people in Southern Illinois favoring secession. Of our family on both sides of the house, (Fathers and Mothers), aiding the Secession movement in every possible way, of the entire Hartley family, but one son, Joseph Hartley, Jr., was the only friend the Union cause had, except one daughter MARTHA that had married

James J. Dollins, the Colonel of the 81st Illinois Infantry Volunteers. Of the Fitzgerald side of the House, I was the only member of the family that I know of who volunteered in the defence of the Union. My uncle Joseph Hartley Jr. and I volunteered and joined the 81st Illinois Infantry Volunteers, both serving until the close of the war.

Of the families and their friends, 65 in number, they escaped the Government draft in February 1865, by "fleeing to the mountains, to escape the wrath to come," as stated by my Grand Father. Thus aiding the cause of Secession all they could.

In this connection, I will state, I well remember one incident at the time of the family hegira. I happened to be at home on a leave of absence, just after General Price's last raid into Missouri. Learning the family and others intended to make an early start the next morning, I went to Grand Father Hartley's home, to assist him in loading his covered wagon with supplies for the trip, the evening before, and bade him "good bye." He was standing in the wagon. In handing him a sack of salt, I remarked, "Grand Father, why are you and the family leaving the country now, the war is practically over?" At this he gave me the most pitying look imaginable, almost dropping the sack of salt, saying: "Jimmie, the war has just commenced, the poor women and children will get their bread at the point of the bayonet, the great Battle of the Armageddon of the Bible will be fought in Southern Illinois within one year from now. I will obey the Bible and flee to the Mountains, both me and mine. I most sincerely pity you in your terrible condition in this horrible war."



I made no reply but helped to finish the work of loading the wagon. The feeling of the supporters of Slavery against the Union Soldiers was most bitter. That cannot be realized by the good people of today.

I will state the party had not crossed the Missouri River before the surrender of General Lee, that marked the close of the Rebellion. Grand Father and the family went to Oregon, he died in about two years, while the most of the family and friends drifted back in a few years.

By permission of my Mother I enlisted as a private in Company "H" 81st Illinois Infantry Volunteers. Commanded by my Uncle by marriage, Colonel James J. Dollins, of Benton, Franklin County, Ills. I finished "laying by" the corn crop at 12 o'clock August 24th, 1862, rode to Tamaroa 10 miles, took the evening train for Anna, Illinois, and was mustered in to the U.S. service at 10 o'clock August 25th, was immediately detailed as Orderly at Regimental Headquarters, with the duty of carrying dispatches to other headquarters, and caring for the Colonel's tent, sleeping on a blanket in that tent. I assisted the regimental clerk (Lippincot) all possible, until in December, when Lippincot was promoted to be 2nd Lieutenant in Co. "C," when because of my knowledge of the business of the Regiment I was detailed to be Regimental Clerk.

During the Vicksburg Campaign commencing May 1st 1863, I joined the ranks of Company "H" in every skirmish and battle, (no trouble to find a gun when it came to a battle). On May 22nd in the general assault on the enemy's works, we failed. Colonel Dollins was killed, and the Adjutant Zebede Hammock was mortally wounded and died. On the 29th, I was made Regiment-



al Adjutant, promoted from the ranks, because I had not shirked my duty as a private, and knew all about the duties of the office. Ranking from May 29th, was mustered into office July 2nd, 1863, and rode into Vicksburg Miss., July 4th at the head of my Regiment, the fourth to enter the city. "The happiest boy of 20 years you ever saw."

Was mustered out of service at the close of the war, On August 5th, 1865, was married to Mariah E. Nygatt, (a little rebel girl of Vicksburg, Miss.), her Father was one of the staunchest Union men I ever met.

I have led an active business life, first as a traveling man for several years, all over the U.S. in the Saw Manufacturing trade. Then entering the Real Estate business in New Mexico and Colorado. During the past forty years in Mexico, office in the City of Mexico, where I have handled over 2,000,000 acres of Mexico lands. Organized the Fitzgerald Investment Corporation, paid up capital, 100,000 pesos, and felt myself on "easy street" financially. On March 13th, 1913, my sweet wife passed to the beyond, her physical body lies in the U.S. National Cemetery in the City of Mexico. Her spirit body, her "self" is with me now, aiding me all possible, with her love and tenderness of the earth life, of almost 50 years.

Because of unsettled business conditions in Mexico, I find myself in the Soldier's Home, California, having "forgotten" Mexico. Have lost every penny of my Mexico properties, Real Estate, Mortgages and all personal effects.

The winter of 1871-2 found me with my family of wife and daughter May, living in East Saginaw, Mich., in the Saginaw Hotel. May was old enough to be placed

in school, where she met a girl of her age the daughter of one of the leading opticians in the city, resulting in our making our home with these people.

On becoming acquainted with these people, I found the Optician to be a wide awake business man, and a gentleman, who informed me that five of the leading business men of the city—three lumbermen and two business men—had formed an investigation circle, meeting once a week, first in one office and then another, after business hours, to investigate the question of the Continuity of Life. I was invited to join the Circle, which I did, as I knew these gentlemen were earnest seekers after the truth, and no thought of fraud.

The religious impressions left on my mind were those left by the preachings of my grand father, one of the leading Baptist ministers in Southern Ills, who preached the doctrine of pre-destination, and proved it by the Bible.

When the meeting came to order I found the medium to be one of the leading lumbermen of the Saginaw Valley, who soon went under control and was controlled by a newspaper man whom I knew well, who but a short time before this, going into his office, in a fit of despondancy, took a revolver from his desk drawer and blew out his brains, no doubt caused by drink.

I was surprised and interested in hearing this newspaper man's statement of his present condition that was pitiful in the extreme. He expressed the greatest possible regret for his act in taking his own life, stating that he could not get away from his old environments, that he wandered up and down the streets, in and out of the hotels, saloons, meeting those he knew who could not recognize him, do what he might to make

them sense his presence. He was able to go to the cemetery and no further. His many friends who had passed over, and all seemed to be happy, told him that in time he with the great help of his earth and spirit friends, would be able to overcome these earth bound conditions, and he will be able to get away from here. He asked us and all his earth friends to send out all possible good thoughts to aid him.

## A Trip to Boston

I made a trip to Boston Mass. At the hotel I was introduced to a practicing physician who had an office in the hotel, who informed me of a meeting that evening at a home of a Mrs. Thayer, THE FLOWER MEDIUM. We attended. About twenty of Boston's leading people assembled in the back parlor reached through a hall from the front door. When the party had assembled an adjournment was taken to the front parlor, that was absolutely bare of carpet and furniture, except a long extension dining table, half a dozen dining chairs, heating stove and gas chandelier, with a candle stick sitting on the table.

There was present a reporter from the Boston Herald. We soon constituted ourselves a self appointed committee of investigation, we sealed all the doors and inside window blinds with common letter postage stamps, leaving the window slats open as much as possible. There were two over, who were seated in the rear of the Medium, and the Reporter and I who seated ourselves on each side of the Medium.

The lights were extinguished. The light that streamed in from the street lamps, through the window blinds, and the light that came in from the hall light, through the transom over the parlor hall door, gave light sufficient to distinguish any one on the opposite side of the table.

Keeping my right arm against the Medium's left arm, in a few minutes I distinguished muscular shud-

ders passing over her person. In about 10 minutes she called for a light. When the candle sitting on the table was lighted, to my surprise there was a profusion of flowers of all kinds lying on the table in front of the different persons sitting at the table.

The flowers were looked over and discussed by the sitters for some minutes, when the reporter and I changed seats. With the blowing out of the candle light, I soon distinguished the sound of something falling on the table, and I kept my arm and shoulder close against the Medium's. She spoke and said: "You may hold both of my hands," which I did. Soon something fell across my hands. When the light was called for I saw one of the most beautiful water hyacinths I ever saw, about 14 inches long, flower and stem, lying across my hand and the medium's. Then followed an examination of the flowers. There were several ladies present who seemed to be very conversant with the hot house growth of flowers, who said there were flowers on the table they had never seen before. All received flowers, while the two who sat on chairs behind the medium and the "committee" received each a flower, stalk, roots and the earth clinging to the roots. With my pocket rule I measured them, one measured 24 the other 28 inches in length roots and stem. The flower I never saw before. Soon there was an animated discussion on the large amount of flowers, many had never been seen by the parties present, where did they come from? The seals on the doors and windows were intact, no one could enter the room without being seen, the snow covered the ground about four inches, the weather was cold, yet the mass of flowers was there, no mistake, but from where no one knew.



### Meeting Col. Kase

While the discussion was going on I noted two gentlemen and their wives sitting opposite to me, that attracted my attention, as being of more than usual intelligence. On exchanging cards, I found one to be a Mr. Thayer, the same name of the Medium, no connection, and strangers, the other Col. S. P. Kase, a Banker from Philadelphia, visiting his relative Thayer, who was a merchant engaged in the West India trade with his office on the main wharf of Boston Harbor.

Thayer said he lived in this neighborhood, that the happenings here had been noised about the neighborhood, his wife had attended one of them, and was much interested, so he caused his wife to invite the medium to come to his home and see if these things would happen on his dining table. The medium accepted the invitation, his wife called at the home of the medium and took her in his family carriage to their home, took her to her bedroom and dressed her in her own clothing, from head to foot, then seated her at their dining table with only his own family present, married and single children. Mr. Thayer said: "There was at least one bushel of flowers came onto my table, also a canary bird was placed in front of my little daughter. She has the canary bird now in a cage in my home, you can see it. Where the flowers and the bird came from I do not know, I know they came, under the most severe test conditions."

### Was Lincoln a Spiritualist?

The discussion of the above happenings, led Col. Kase to make to Mr. Thayer and me the following statement:

"You remember with the opening of the Rebellion, that Washington was threatened by the Confederate troops when the 7th Mass. Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Benjamin F. Butler, was ordered to Washington to protect the Capitol. Arriving there none too soon, in passing through Baltimore, Md., they were assailed by the Confederates and fought their way through that City, with the loss of several killed and wounded.

At that time I was connected with one of the leading Banks in the City of New York. A meeting of the leading Bankers was called and it was decided an effort should be made to build a rail road connecting with the Capitol without having to pass through Baltimore. I was appointed a committee of one to go to Washington and see President Lincoln, and see what could be done to carry out the plan with Government aid.

Arriving at Washington on the early morning train, I walked from the depot to the Willard Hotel. In passing along the street I became conscious that I was passing the house in which I formerly lived when I was a student in one of the Washington Colleges. The House stood back from the street a few feet. I noted the front door was open, and looking to the second story, to the room I had formerly occupied, I saw the window was open. The thought came to me: go and see your old room again. With this thought I turned into the walk, through the open door, up the stairs, at the head of the stairs I saw the room door open, so I entered. Just as I entered the room, I saw a gentleman arising from a writing table. Sealing a letter and advancing toward me, he said: "Take this letter to President Lincoln, it is of the utmost importance that he should receive it at once." I replied, I do not know the President. You can take it to



him just as well as I. He replied; "You are going to see the President at once, and can hand it to him. It will receive attention at once, don't fail to do this, it is important to the Nation that Mr. Lincoln should receive this and act on its statements."

With these statements, and the strange condition I found myself in I took the letter, put it in my pocket.

After breakfast I went to the office of Judge Soames and laid the object of my visit before him. After consultation, as the Judge was busy on some important business, it was decided I should go at once to the White House and see the President.

On presenting my card to the door keeper, and asking for an immediate interview, telling the door keeper my name was Kase, he disappeared, returning in a few minutes with the President following closely, who on entering the room, seeing a stranger seemed confused. As I advanced toward him I gave my name, S. P. Kase, from New York, and desired to talk to him on important business. At that the President said; "I expected to see Secretary of State S. P. Chase, I understood from the door keeper, that Mr. Chase wanted to see me at once." (All Civil War Veterans will remember that Simon P. Chase of Ohio was a strong competitor of Mr. Lincoln for the nomination for the Presidency, and was appointed Secretary of State in Lincoln's Cabinet, and the difference in the pronunciation of the name Kase and Chase.) I noted a curious expression on the President's face. I stated to him that I came as the representative of the Banking interest of New York, to take up with him the matter of building a rail road from New York to Washington avoiding Baltimore. At this he seemed very much interested and invited me to sit down and discuss

the matter at some length. On separating it was understood that Judge Soames and I should return during the afternoon and discuss the subject further.

On leaving the President I drew the letter I had received in the early morning from my pocket and gave it to him, with a statement of how I came to receive it. The President opened and read it, then asked me if I knew of its contents. I told him I did not.

Judge Soames and I filled the appointment made with the President during the afternoon; after discussing the rail road matter, in which the President gave hearty support, and as we were leaving the room, the President called up the matter of the letter received in the morning, stating that it was an invitation that he should visit the home of a Mr. Laurie in Georgetown, (suburb of Washington,) that evening at 7 p.m., where he would hear something of vital importance to the Nation. That he had caused an investigation of the request, and decided to make the visit and asked Judge Soames and me if we would like to go along. This invitation we gladly accepted.

We reported at the White House on time, and were driven in the White House carriage with the Major in attendance on the President's staff with the President accompanied by an escort of four soldiers to the Georgetown home of Mr. Laurie.

As we were expected, we were met at the door by Mr. Laurie and his wife who gave us an earnest invitation to enter their home, and be welcome guests. Mrs. Laurie soon seated herself at the piano and began to play some favorite tune, when the piano began to move up and down in accord with the rise and fall of the music. This attracted the attention of the President who said

to one of the soldiers standing near the piano; "Cannot you hold that piano down?" At that the soldier attempted to do so, with his entire weight on the piano, still the piano moved up and down the same as before. At this the President stepped to the end of the piano and added his weight to that of the soldiers. Still the piano moved up and down just the same as before. At this the President resumed his seat in one of the large horse hair easy chairs of the day.

Just then there appeared a young lady of about eighteen years of age with her hair curled, the custom of the young girls of the day, that we had not seen before, entering from the bed room off from the parlor room. The home was a five room house. She stepped directly in front of the President and commenced talking in the most earnest and impressive manner, reviewing the history of this Nation. Commencing with the conditions in England at the time of the Mayflower, the causes that led the Pilgrim Fathers to come to the new world, their landing at Plymouth Rock, the hardships they met with, of the oppositions given them by the Indians, spoke of Pocahontas, of the hardships of the thirteen colonists, then to the causes that led to the war of the Revolution. Of the hardships and sufferings of the Colonists and of the successful recognition of American independance, with half free and half slave states, then reviewed the strife between the slave and free states to extend and suppress the extension of slavery to the Territories, of the Missouri Compromise. Then of the bitterness of the different political parties in the Presidential election, in which you (Lincoln) was elected as the President. Then of the calling of the representatives of all the southern states together, and passing of the Act

of Secession, the firing on Fort Sumpter, and the inauguration of the War of the Rebellion. Of the progress of the war up to this date, (in 1862). Attention was called to the varied successes and failures of the battles fought so far. Then was made the statement: "Mr. Lincoln you have been called to be the head of this nation for the purpose of freeing the slaves, you have been called from a slave state, from the ranks of the abject poor, to fill this great mission TO FREE THE SLAVES OF THE SOUTHERN STATES. You have prepared an Emancipation Proclamation, but have hesitated to sign it, and proclaim it. You have listened to the arguments raised by many of your friends, as to the propriety of issuing the Proclamation at this time.

This is to urge you to sign the proclamation at once, do your duty, fill your mission for which you were raised up. By so doing success will crown the Union Arms, from the date the Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect. The rebellion will be crushed, peace and order will be restored, when the greatest possible prosperity will bless this Nation, that will rise to be the world power, and carry freedom to all the slaves and oppressed of earth." This oration was the grandest I ever listened to.

Then added: "Failing to do your duty, in signing and issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, failure will attend your efforts, the Southern States will succeed in disrupting the Union, then other states and governments will arise, the North-western states and territories will form a government. The South-western states and territories will form another, the Pacific states and territories will form a government of their own, the Southern and Eastern states will divide on the line of



Virginia and eastern Ohio, then great contentions will arise over the navigation and control of the Mississippi river."

While the Southern States would nominally succeed at this time, their success would lead to endless suffering and hardships to the people of this Nation. It was certainly the most dismal picture I ever listened to.

The wind up was to urge the action at once to sign the Emancipation Proclamation, by so doing secure the greatest glory, peace and prosperity of this Nation and people. The picture was a glorious one showing this Nation as a world power, leading to the Emancipation of the oppressed of all Nations and people. This talk lasted about one hour. When through, the control left the little girl, she looked around in a confused manner and returned to the bed room from whence she came.

With her disappearance, nothing was said for some time, the President turned in his seat, threw his long right leg over the arm of his chair, buried his face in his hands fully five minutes, then, then looking around to the Judge said; "Was not this wonderful?". "Yes" said the Judge, "Who do you think did this talking?" At this remark Mr. Lincoln pointed to the full length portrait of Daniel Webster hanging on the wall of the room.

He was asked about the preparation of the Emancipation Proclamation. He said that much pressure had been made to prevent the Proclamation from being issued at this time. At this we took our leave of the host of the evening, entered the carriage and were soon at the White House. On the road home but little was said by any of the remarkable meeting we had attended.

It certainly made a wonderful impression on Mr. Lincoln's mind, as he referred to it at our next meeting

in connection with the rail road matter we were discussing, that was carried to a successful conclusion."

It is a historic fact, the Emancipation Proclamation was soon issued, in the month of September 1862, offering the slave owners the alternative of freeing their slaves between that date and January 1, 1863, and receiving their value to be paid by the Government, and returning to the Union, otherwise the slaves should be freed forever without any remuneration to the former owners.

It should be noted the Battle of Stone River was fought January 1st and 2nd, 1863, resulting in success to the Union Arms, and that every general engagement fought after this date was victorious to the Union Arms. We who were at Vicksburg Miss., July 4th, 1863, well remember the glorious entering of that City on that day, and of the culmination of the four years of warfare in the surrender at Appotomax, and when Johnson surrendered to Sherman. Col. Kase stated in carrying out the rail road plans, it was necessary to visit Washington a number of times, and confer with the President, that he and Judge Soames were often invited to be present at the White House of evenings to meet Miss Nettie Colburn, the young girl medium they met at the home of the Laurie's in Georgetown.

There were present members of the Cabinet, military men, and civilians of national fame, such men as General Sickles and others.

This interview with Col. Kase made a deep impression on my mind, and seemed to interest Mr. Thayer very much, as he had not heard Col. Kase's report of this interview with Mr. Lincoln.

As a sequel to this interview in Boston in 1871-2. twenty years passed, when one day I picked up a daily

paper, and saw a notice of the death of Nettie Colbourn Maynard, that the story of her life had been published by Rufus C. Hartranft publisher in Philadelphia. I ordered the Book and found that Col. Kase had given Mr. Hartranft the same information he gave M. Thayer and myself twenty years before.

The book was dictated by Mrs. Maynard to a stenographer, just before her death, and stated, after the interview with the President at the Laurie's, that Mr. Lincoln asked her to remain in Washington, and requested the Secretary of Agriculture to give Miss Nettie a position in the Seed Department, that the President called her to the White House often, giving a graphic account of the call during the two days battle of Chancellorsville, Va. The Book is certainly to me interesting reading.

### Materialized Hands

The next evening after the meeting at Mrs. Thayer's, the Doctor and I attended a meeting of some ten or twelve investigators, at a pleasant home place, where in a neat home parlor an extension dining table was sitting, with one of the boards removed. Over the opening was sitting an empty candle box, with one end and side removed, the inside covered with dark cloth, that afforded a black back ground, the space on the top of the table on each side of the box covered with cloth, while a heavy dark cloth was hanging all around the frame of the table, so if one was sitting under the table it would be dark, and if a hand should be thrust up into the candle box, it could be plainly seen by any one in the room, in the line of vision of the opening of the box.



The medium was sitting among the spectators, and seemed to be an interested spectator. I occupied the next chair to hers the most of the evening. When quiet was had, soon hands began to appear, thrust up in the box in answer to questions, Is this hand for me?. The answer was made by motion of the hand until someone would be answered "yes." The name of the owner of the hand would be spelled out by repeating the alphabet, and in every case given correctly, so stated by those present. In several cases permission was given to shake hands, so I asked permission in one case, which was granted. In taking the hand, it seemed to be a hand of some one, when I grasped it strongly it disappeared in my grasp.

There were several ladies present who asked permission to place their finger rings on the fingers of the hands, which was granted, or the rings were deposited on the table in front of the box, taken off, and appeared on the finger of the hand inside of the box. In some cases the rings were returned to the table, in others the rings were found on the floor afterwards.

There were all kinds and sizes of hands, babies, children, men, coarse, small and large, many hands.

When the exhibition was ended I asked permission to investigate, which was granted. I stripped the table of the curtain, turned the table up-side down, examined the legs, the boards, the carpets, the walls of the room, as the gas light was on full during the evening, there was no deception practiced in the dark. I found the rings that had not been returned, lying on the floor. I could not see any attempt at deception, and was at a loss to account for the many hands I saw that appeared inside that box, as it was a plain candle box, from the grocery store.

## The Doctor

With reference to the Doctor who accompanied me in my investigations, he was a young man. I learned he had been a street waif. As a child brought up by the college faculty, where he graduated as a physician, and was the janitor's assistant. His peculiar mental characteristics attracted the attention of the college faculty, so they decided to make a test case of the young man. His name was placed on the roll of students. He did not attend lectures, nor was he given opportunity to study. When his class was called for examination, his name was called and he stood his share of the examination and usually stood at the head of his class on examination day. When the day came for the final examination he stood at the head of his class and received his diploma entitling him to practice medicine.

The understanding among the profession was that he of himself had no medical education, but was controlled by old College professors of this College, who had passed on, who controlled the young man in his examinations, and when called into consultation with extreme cases of disease, his judgment was first class. As a result the young man did not have a general practice, but was used by the medical doctors in the city as a consulting physician in extreme complicated cases of disease.

It was interesting to see how he was controlled by a crowd of boy spirits, earth bound waifs, of the young man's type, who would control him to buy and eat stick candy ravenously, and scrap over who would control

him to get the benefits of the effects of the candy. He seemed to have no business judgment, did not seem to be himself, but under control all the time, usually by a crowd of boys, when it came to meeting people of education and business such as was met at the flower seance, he was controlled by his leading control.

This was an eye opener to me. I decided then and there, in the future I should be myself, and never allow myself to be controled by outside influences, but use whatever judgment I possessed, open to impressions that may come from my inner consciousness on all business and social matters of life.

During my years of personal investigation, I have made it a rule to listen to all arguments and suggestions, pro and con, placing a question mark behind them, watch and wait development. Do not accept anything as final until you know.

## New York

From the City of Boston I went to the City of New York. At about 2 p.m. on a bright sunny winter afternoon, I visited the home of a Mr. Slade, who personally answered the door bell, inviting me to the hallway, where I told him I came for a slate writing interview. When I was invited into the neat front parlor, with the window blinds wide open, the bright sunlight streaming in made an inviting place. The furniture was the common parlor furniture of easy chairs and small center table, with books, etc.

We seated ourselves at a bare wooden table about 4x5 feet in size, Slade seated opposite to me with the corner of the table between us, our knees almost touched one another. Lying on the table was a common school slate and pencil. Slade handed me the slate that I cleaned from all former writings. Then holding the slate with the blank side of the slate toward Slade I wrote my questions that I had prepared in my mind in advance. When I wrote my question I turned the writing down, and passed the end of the slate to Slade, so he could touch the end of the slate under the table, still holding my end of the slate.

In a few mintes after Slade's hands touched the slate, I heard and felt the lower face of the slate was being written on, when the writing was completed, three taps on the slate indicated the writing was finished. Slade released his hold of the slate, I then raised it before my eyes and in every instance my question was

answered to the point. I would rub out the writing and write the next question. The answers received prompted other questions, so I was about an hour at the work, in the meantime there was no conversation between us, but there was something going on most of the time.

The slate was wrenched from our hands, carried beyond and above the table, in full view, then carried back and placed in our hands as before. My chair was shaken, my clothing pulled in a playful manner, face patted, the parlor chairs on castors would run across the room, come to the table opposite my seat, then run back to where they started. Several books lying on the center table were swept from the table across the room. The conditions became so lively, that Slade said as if speaking to third parties, in a laughing manner; "Do please let up, don't make such a racket." At this the playful condition that had been going on ceased.

After asking all the questions that came into my mind, and receiving direct answers to all of them, all in full day light, no one in the room but Slade and I, seated in front of Slade, so that it was an utter impossibility for Slade to see my written questions, yet answers came when Slade's hand touched the slate, and not before. I held the slate down lying on the table with a bit of pencil the size of a kernel of wheat under the slate, when Slades hand touched the slate the writing in answer to my questions would be given.

I tested every device I could think of as a test, yet the answers came on the slate to my questions just the same. Slade himself could not possibly have written them. The question in my mind from that day to this is "Who Did?"



## Chicago

Arriving in Chicago from New York on a late morning train, after registering at one of the Hotels, I hurried to a meeting being held on Clark Street. Being my first visit I was an entire stranger to everyone present. I was seated about the center of the hall, well filled with listeners, the speaker was on the platform.

In a few minutes after being seated, the speaker pointed me out stating that I was accompanied by an Army Officer, who was standing by the side of my chair, described his shoulder straps as that of an eagle, wearing a cap, and described Col. James. J. Dollins, Colonel commanding my regiment, (my uncle by marriage), who was instantly killed in an assault on the enemy's works at Vicksburg Miss., May 22, 1863.

The statement was then made, as from the Colonel, that he had aided me all possible, that he secured me to be appointed Adjutant of the Regiment from the ranks of Company H, upon the Death of Regimental Adjutant Z. Hammack, who fell mortally wounded at the time the Colonel was killed, that he had aided me all possible in my work as the Adjutant of the Regiment, and since in my business matters, that now I had my business matters in good shape, that his family, widowed wife, with their four (4) children were well provided for, and as the time had come when he was able to take up a life's work on a higher plane of future work, he would bid me an adieu for the present.

As no one present knew me nor the Army Officer decribed, it created a deep impression on my mind, and as a sequel, I will state that I have not been conscious of the presence of the Colonel but twice since that time, (1871-2.)

With reference to Col. Dollin's military service, will state he entered the military service as Captain of Co. C. 31, Ills. Infantry, General John A. Logan's regiment. He organized and commanded the 81, Ills. Volunteers Infantry, in 1862. I was a private in Co. H. During the Vicksburg Campaign I was detailed as the Regimental Clerk. Our Regiment, participated in all the battles of that campaign, and during the Campaign the Colonel and I slept under the same blanket. The battle of Port Gibson was fought on the 1st of May, 1863, at Raymond, the 12th, at Jackson the 14th, (the State Capitol) and at Champions Hill on the 16th. The Battle at Champions Hills was of a decisive character. That cut off Vicksburg from any aid from the confederate Armies. We became engaged about 10 a.m. Late in the evening we had driven the enemy back several miles, near the Black River Bridge, when our Division (General John A. Logan Commanding), was relieved by a Division of fresh troops. We filed off the road into a woods pasture, and went into bivouac camp. After eating our haversack supper of hard tack and bacon, I prepared our bed of the blankets from the horses, with the saddles for pillows, and laid down to rest. The Colonel was much excited, he visited the Captains of all the Companies, talking over the events of the day, when he came to our bed and laid down, he was still much excited, and kept talking. At last he made a remark that gave me a chance to ask the question I had desired to



ask for several days. How is it, Colonel, that you can tell in advance what will happen day by day? All during this Campaign you have told us in advance if we would meet the enemy or not, day by day. While we expected to meet the enemy at many times, if you said they would retreat or give battle, it has resulted just as you said it would be. Now this morning you said we would meet the enemy today and win a glorious victory. The officers and the men are all talking about it. HOW IS IT? In reply the Colonel made this statement:

You remember when I came home after I was wounded in the skirmish with the Rebel General Forrest's command, when in command of a Battallion of Cavalry, we drove Forrest across the Obine River in West Tenn., I was wounded in the head and right foot. My wounds were light so I was able to go on a crutch, and organized our Regiment.

The night before this skirmish, I saw the Rebel shoot me just as plain as when it happened. We were driving them before us through the Obine River bottom, when just in front of me, a rebel stepped from a tree, having the "drop" on me, dodging my head just as he fired, the ball from a squirrel rifle struck my head a glancing blow, and followed around the skull and was cut out on the opposite side of the head. It did not knock me from my horse, while the soldier by my side killed my assailant. In a few minutes my stirrup and bottom of my foot was struck by a bullet, smashing the saddle stirrup, and wounding the sole of my foot, so that I was compeled to use a crutch for some time in walking.

Now on this Campaign I have seen the events in a panoramic view passing before me, the night before,

just as it afterwards happened. That is why I felt so confident of Victory today. I saw the events of today pass my view last night.

As a sequel: During the 17th-18th-19th and 20th, our army closed in around the enemy's works. On the 22nd General Grant ordered an assault all along the lines at 10 a.m.. In this assault Colonel Dollins was killed instantly by a bullet through the head, the Adjutant Z. Hammock mortally wounded, and died on the 29th. While I was made Adjutant from the ranks of Co. H.

The morning of the 22nd, Col. Dollins awoke me from a sound sleep and told me to pass down the lines of the Regiment and ask the Officers to assemble at headquarters. When all had assembled he led the way up the hill-side out of ear shot of the soldiers, and stated to the Officers, (as told me by Lieutenant Simmons) we will soon receive orders to assault the rebel works. The assault is a mistake, but orders must be obeyed, many will be killed and wounded, as for myself I do not expect to return from that hill alive, (pointing over to the enemy's works on the opposite hill.) Then he gave directions as to the movements of the companies etc. dismissing them. Soon he ordered the E. Regiment into line and examined carefully every musket, cartridge box, and canteen, to know that everything was in proper order. The soldiers noticed the great change in his action and appearance between this inspection and the inspection of the morning before the Battle of Champion Hills, when he was jolly with the boys. This morning his cheeks were blanched, his attempt to be jolly was a failure, the soldiers noticed it and spoke to one another about it.

I learned from General Logan, that he had visited

his Headquarters, and told him of his desires that his body be sent to his home in Benton Ills., for burial stating to Logan that he would be killed. Logan made the promise and fulfilled it to the letter.

By what power did Colonel Dollins know in advance of our victories, defeats, and his own death? His remains now lie in the Cemetery in the City of Benton, Franklin County, Illinois.

NOTE—I have known Major General John A. Logan all my life. He lived a neighbor to Colonel J. Dollins. General Logan detailed to me Colonel Dollins' visit to his Headquarters early in the morning of May 22nd, 1863, who told him of his coming death-warning and received General Logan's promise that his body should be sent home for burial which was fulfilled to the letter.

### Minneapolis, Minn.

One of my most enjoyable visits was in Minneapolis Minn., where in my Hotel, I met during two evenings the Superintendent of the Minneapolis High Schools, who occupied the adjoining room to my own.

I am unable to go into details of the conditions claimed to exist on the planet Jupiter, as claimed by the Superintendant's control, who asserted himself to be a resident of that planet, on a visit to this Earth for the purpose of studying Earth's conditions: that he claimed were in many respects crude, in comparison with advanced conditions on the older planet—Jupiter.

In answer to my enquiries, he attempted to get me to understand conditions on the Planet Jupiter—in the matter of land, air and water transportation, describing their boats, manner of propelling them, the power used, how applied, land and air transportation, the home life and government, with life's conditions generally. I confess I did not comprehend many of his statements.

He claimed the day of investigation and upward progress had just begun on earth, when inventors and advanced scientific minds of other planets, could impress and control similar advanced minds of this Earth, creating improvements in all lines of human industries, and studies, that would mean wonderful advancement in all of the efforts to bring happiness to the people of Earth, not dreamed of today.

Looking back fifty years to that date, and the conditions at that time compared with the conditions and inventions of today, I can now dimly understand his statements, as to coming conditions in the near future on this earth, describing social, transportation by land, air, and water conditions. All of which was very interesting in view of the statement by scientists of the possibilities of communication with the different planets, that will in the no distant future be recognized as an accomplished fact here.



### Residence in Chicago, Ill.

During a two years residence in Chicago Ills., in the 70's, I embraced every opportunity to attend the lectures of Cora L. Richmond, who impressed me as being under wonderful control.

When the subject matter of her lecture had not been previously announced, the presiding officer would announce the subject would be selected by the audience, and ask for nominations. At some of the meetings as many as half a dozen subjects would be handed in when a majority vote would make the election.

When the subject was announced, the speaker would stand quietly for a few minutes, then launch directly into a discussion of the subject. It made no difference how intricate the subject should be, it would be handled in a masterly manner. Often data and information would be given, on complicated subjects, that it would seem to require much study by the ordinary speaker.

At the close of the lecture, the presiding officer would announce a poem would be delivered on a subject selected by the audience in the same manner as the lecture. When selected and the subject announced, Mrs. Richmond would at once enter into the subject and deliver it as if she was reading it from manuscript, often they were taken down by short hand reporters, and when published in the morning papers, would read as if given much study, and from fifty to one hundred lines of reading matter, perfect in expression. This power seemed marvelous to my mind.

## Denver

While making my home in Denver, Colo., in the latter part of the 80's, it was very interesting to attend meetings of Mrs. Emma Buline, a cousin of my wife, who was a welcome visitor at our Home. Mrs. Emma Bulline was the lecturer for a society in Denver, the Hall was usually filled each Sunday at the different lectures.

In answer to my question, in what manner does your control deliver the wonderful lectures we hear from your lips, second only to the lectures delivered by Mrs. Richmond, as you officiate as your own chairman, in making all announcements and transacting the business of the Society? She said:

In all her business transactions, making announcements, etc, she was in her normal condition, but gave no thought or study to the lectures delivered. You may notice the subjects to be discussed are announced. There is a band of six advanced spirits that have banded together who look after the lectures, and in my Book just issued, on the history of the Cliff Dwellers, that you are so much interested in, when the time for my lecture comes, some one of the band who has been assigned to that duty stands ready to assume that duty. After making the announcements, I stand for a few moments in a passive attitude, when I seem to be standing by the side of myself, I am a spectator, and as much interested as any one in the audience at what is being



said through my organism, I remember it as you do. When the lecture is completed, I seem to step into myself and assume my normal condition. I then go ahead with the business of the society.

She stated she understood that many speakers lost complete control of their organism, and were unconscious of what was being delivered through their organism. Others only partially conscious.

To me this information was very interesting, as I know I was receiving the truth.

### The Regimental Chaplain

While on an Illinois Central R. R. train from Chicago into Southern Illinois, I met our old Regimental Chaplain. The meeting was mutually cordial. After talking of conditions in our army life, the talk drifted into present conditions, and he made this statement:

You may remember during the War, while the Chaplain of our Regiment I preached the doctrine of Predestination, as preached by your grand father. On returning to civil life, my studies of the Bible caused me to question that idea. I went to the older members of the church for information. I found them as deep in the mud as I was in the mire, so I have resigned from the Baptist Church, and connected myself with the Free Will Baptist, as the pastor in one of their Churches, and now preach MAN'S FREE WILL, as taught in the Bible. I have just been informed that Chaplain William Carner, of Duquoin Ills, has gone to his reward, (our Chaplain).

### An Eye Opener to Me

I was a travelling man for a St. Louis Mo. Manufacturing firm in the 70s. During one of my trips in Michigan I called on Colonel William Ferry, who was a Colonel in one of the Michigan Regiments during the Civil War. After transacting my business with him, he invited me to take dinner with him and his estimable wife, which I gladly accepted.

Just as the Colonel was arising from the table, in answer to some remark that had been made, he said: I am a member of the Methodist Church here, one of the church wardens, and superintendant of the Snuday School, but I do not believe the Church articles of faith. I was much surprised to hear this remark, and looking across the table into Mrs. Ferry's face, I saw she was not surprised but seemed to express full assent. I followed the Colonel into the Library, when he reached into one of the shelves, taking down a book, Articles of Faith of the Methodist Church, read it carefully, then added, I do not believe these. In my surprise I said: Colonel how do you square your action in your Church membership, with your statement? Said the Colonel; As I find society here now organized, I feel I can do the greatest amount of good to the present and the rising generation, by my action, in teaching the young morality, truth and right living.

This was certainly an EYE OPENER TO ME, and explained to me the action of many business men with reference to Church Membership.

### City of Mexico, Mexico

During the past thirty-five years, I made my home, office and business, that of Real Estate, in the City of Mexico, Mexico. Leading an active business life, I managed to attend church services with my Grand Army Post No. 100, Dept. of the Tenn. organized by about twenty-five of the old Civil War Veterans, when on the Sabbath before May 30th, we attended one of the Churches in the City, on the invitation of one of the Priests or Church Ministers.

Under the law priests or church ministers cannot head a procession of the people. The general public can form processions and pass along the streets of the cities, but no church processions are allowed.

Only civil law marriages are legal. Marriages solemnized by a priest or minister, must be legalized by a marriage license, and solemnized by a justice of the peace or some civil officer authorized to perform the duty.

As a result the double marriages are common among the well-to-do people. As illustrated in the case of one of my stenographers, a young man from Penna, who fell in love with a Spanish-French girl. The priest wanted \$1000, to open the Church and decorate it and perform the ceremony. The young man objected. The priest offered to cut the fee to 500 pesos, still the young man objected. He then came to me and asked my assistance with the Methodist minister, who told him he would not charge him. As a result they were married by the Methodist minister, then by the civil authorities, duly legalizing the marriage.

### Long Beach, Calif.

I had a friend of mine named Jones, (that is not his name, if it is desired to interview him his name and address will be gladly given). I first met him as a homesteader living on three hundred and twenty acres of land in Kern County, my neighbor, where I had homesteaded 320 acres and secured a Government patent for the same.

Jones gave me the following statement of happenings in Long Beach a few years ago, when a group of his neighbors formed a circle for the study of the Occult, offering themselves as subjects for control. He soon found he was controlled by a band of spirits, who desired to take him on a tour of inspection of their homes, in their plane of life. To this invitation he gave his consent, as he desired to gain all possible information with regard to the future state of life in the different planes of existence.

As a result his physical body was left to the care of one of their band, when he seemed to take a long journey through a country of valleys, plains, mountains and rivers, timber and open country, until they came to the homes of his conductors, there he found the homes and people were a type of the original aborigines of this country. They did not have tent-like homes, their homes were constructed of the material found in the country, in a crude manner. "I was entertained," he said, "by these people and given every attention. They played their games, held their meetings, giving me to know their customs, then took me journeys over the country, doing everything in their power to make me contented to re-

main with them. They seemed to live in a country of a twilight, never dark, nor was it bright light. Like on earth everything seemed to be crude and rude. I soon tired of this darkened condition, and wanted to see the full light of day again. At this they intimated a desire to hold me. Then my thoughts and desires for help went out to my daughter who went out as a child years before, and to relatives and friends in spirit life. Soon I became conscious of a great light streaming through the semi-darkness, in which my daughter and a few friends appeared. When the natives shrank away, my daughter and friends took control of me, and I soon found myself with and in control of my physical body again. At that I looked around me, and resumed my work. That of carpentering.

Noting the strange action of my fellow employees, and neighbors toward me, I soon became conscious of the fact that I had been absent from my work three days, lying around the house and acting very strangely.

I could not tell them of the experience I had passed through. They would not understand it or believe me. My son here with me is the only one who knows anything of the truth of the occurrence."

I received a confirmation of his statement, in an unlooked for manner. When it came time for me to prove up on my homestead I went to Long Beach to see Jones, to arrange with him to appear in the land office. He was not at home. On enquiring of a neighbor as to Jones whereabouts, I found he was working in San Pedro. The lady then went on and told me that her neighbor acted very strangely, no doubt the result of drink. That at one time he went to the country to take up his homestead, for three days he laid around the house



refused to go to his work, would run around the house like a school boy whooping and yelling, and acting very strangely, but since he had returned from the country this time he was acting all right, and she hoped he would make a good neighbor again. Meeting Jones, arrangements were made and he appeared as one of my witnesses.

I did not understand or comprehend the statement made by my friend Jones. On enquiry I learned that he was not a drinker, but that had always been a teetotalter, as he claimed to be. When I listened to the addresses of Mrs. E. R. Drollinger, of Los Angeles, who had made a life study of the seven zones, in her book "*Journeys of the soul*" she described the first zone, and life in this zone, its inhabitants just as described by my friend Jones, in his three days trip above described. When all his friends thought, and still think he had had a drunken frolic all to himself at his home, that was the action of the control of his physical body, while his spiritual body took its journey to the lands of the first zone so graphically described by Mrs. Drollinger. That I now begin to comprehend by the statements made by my friend Jones. Jones stated that in the future he proposed to be himself, and under no circumstances seek or allow any control to seek or control him. Just the conclusions I came to after my visit in Boston in '71-2 when I saw the boys controlling the doctor. Now I begin to see the dangers in controls. If of a high character as the controls of Mrs. Richmond, and Mrs. Bulline, Mrs. Wilcox, Drollinger, Sayers, Miller, and many others in Los Angeles and elsewhere, then it is all right, and desirable, but there are dangers in seeking the unknown control, in inviting such control as my friend Jones found, as well as many others I could

name, confirming the Bible statements, of many who are controlled by evil spirits. Cast them out.

Mrs. Drollinger's book describing the different zones, from the first as described by Jones, inhabited by people of earth of the ages past, to the seventh zone, peopled by Christ and the sages of all ages of the past to the present time, is very interesting reading indeed, and worthy of careful study.

### Trumpet Lecture

I was interested in my investigations in a trumpet lecture in Los Angeles, the first lecture of the kind I attended. I found the audience first at 1.30 p.m. in a front room adjoining the hall, listening to messages from different members present. At 2.30 p.m. an adjournment was made to the speakers room at the end of the hall, that seated several hundred people. This room was fitted up with a speaker's platform about 8x12 feet, with a speaker's bible stand, a hanging curtain, cabinet against the wall about 3x4 feet, a small wooden center table, about 2½x3 feet, with a tin trumpet about four feet long lying on the small table standing next to the curtain cabinet.

When all were seated in the lecture room the services were opened in the regular Church service manner, by song and prayer, when the speaker entered the cabinet, seated in the common high back chair, when the curtain of the cabinet closed, immediately the trumpet speaking commenced. The voice was strong and dis-

ting in every tone and in the style of a church minister that commanded the attention of the audience, on the subject of the continuity of life, that to me was interesting. The voice occupied about thirty minutes time, when it was announced that on the next Sunday the subject would be discussed further. Then followed a female voice that was in the manner and style of the female, talking on a subject of interest to the ladies. When finished the speaker returned from the cabinet to the Bible stand and closed the meeting with the usual church doxology.

The next Sunday I attended arriving late. The audience was engaged in the front room. I passed at once into the lecture room. As no one was in sight I decided to investigate for myself. I found the platform simply a common wood raised speaker's platform, the cabinet curtain suspended from the wall of the room, common curtain cloth, the small center table a cheap wooden table, the trumpet a common tin affair. I blew through it and found it a simple tin trumpet about four feet long. I then changed the position and angle of the table, and laid the trumpet with the small end further from the wall and further from the cabinet than I found it. I then went to the front seats, and selected a seat where I could see the table and trumpet to the best advantage, examined the room carefully, then went to the front room. When the services were ended I hastened to the speaker's room and seated myself in the chair selected, when the same services were held as on last Sunday, the speaking through the trumpet was a continuation of the views expressed on last Sunday, and very interesting to me, showing deep study of the subject. This lecture lasted about forty minutes followed

by the female voice of about fifteen minutes, when the services were closed as stated, on last Sunday.

I should have stated, with the close of the trumpet minister's talk, the masculine measured voice, asked if any one desired to ask questions, they would be answered. There was quite a number of questions asked, that was suggested by the statements made. I asked some questions myself. In every case the answers were to the point and directly answered.

The question that has agitated my mind, who—and by what power was that lecture delivered through that trumpet?

I could not see the least movement of the table or trumpet during the time the lecture was being delivered. The voice came from the trumpet. We know the voice when passing through a trumpet gives forth a different sound from that when delivered direct from the lips. WHO DELIVERED THAT LECTURE?

## Materialized Forms

I attended an evening materializing meeting in this hall, that evening. When the audience was seated, the light that lighted the hall came from an electric bulb burning at the rear of the hall, that threw a reflected light on the speaker's platform sufficient to read print.

The speaker entered the cabinet above described, soon figures appeared walking around on the platform, addressing and conversing with different persons in the audience.

At one time the speaker left the cabinet and took a seat on a chair on the platform, the two figures appeared, one following the other, the two figures walking around on the platform, pointing out parties in the audience, and engaging in conversation with them, listened to by all, the speaker did not leave his seat while these conversations were being carried on, the three figures being clearly seen at the same time on the platform.

It would be hard to make the parties addressed in the audience believe they had not talked to their relatives or friends as the case may be.

I recall on another occasion in Chicago, the pleasant smile on a mother's face, when seated in a chair on the platform, when a figure came and stood by her side, when quite an animated conversation ensued, listened to by all present, that satisfied the mother she had talked to her son. It would be a waste of time to try to convince that mother that she had not met her boy.



## Reading Blindfolded

On the announcement from the platform that any one in the audience could do the blindfolding act, as an investigator I volunteered to do the blindfolding. On the platform, standing by the side of the speaker, I placed two pieces of black cloth about three inches square over the eyes, then with a piece of cloth folded several folds thick, and about six inches wide, I covered the face, leaving only sufficient space for breathing. It was impossible to see anything with the eyes thus bandaged. I tied the cloth tight and securely at the back of the head.

I had written a question I wanted information on, on a blank sheet of paper enclosed the same in an envelope and sealed the same. After tying on the blindfold I dropped the envelope on the table with the other envelope. It was mixed up freely by the reader before picking up a single envelope. When in the reading my envelope was picked up and held between the hands, a few moments, with no attempt to open the envelope, the question asked was read, with its signature, of four figures, like 4567, no name. The answer was to the point, answering my question. No one knew who 4567 was. The envelope was then dropped on the floor with the other questions read. When other questions followed with answers. The questions were generally signed by figures, or some fictitious name, the true names were never mentioned.

## Reading from Flowers

I witnessed an exciting episode at a meeting in Los Angeles, in the reading of Flowers placed on a table standing on the speakers platform, by members of the audience, who desired readings. The flowers to be gathered by the party placing the flowers on the table. If flowers were not deposited, a finger ring, a watch or other article of a personal nature would answer the purpose. As many as forty to fifty readings would be given at a meeting.

At this meeting the reader had read four or five bouquets of flowers, when picking up a beautiful bouquet of roses, she began to flourish them over her head, asking whose flowers are these? Which question was answered by an elderly lady sitting the fourth seat in the rear of my seat. By her side sat an elderly gentleman. On the other side sat a young man, and at the next sat a young lady and next on the aisle, or passage way, that proved to be husband and wife, their daughter and her husband.

When the reader received the answer to the question, whose flowers are these, she began to stagger across the platform, speaking in a loud voice, "OH MAMMA! MAMMA! MAMMA! HOW SORRY I KILLED MYSELF," and was caught from falling on the platform by the parties seated there. At this the young woman from her seat gave a piercing shriek, and fell over in the aisle in a deep swoon.. There was great excitement in the audience. Every one to their feet. Soon the

pianist began to play and the choir to sing a familiar hymn, that somewhat allayed the excitement, while the young lady was carried back into the cloak room, where she recovered.

It was learned that the spirit daughter had committed suicide. The parents and her sister had visited this meeting, the mother had deposited this beautiful boquet of roses on the table for the purpose of seeing what would happen. Something happened, and when the audience became quieted down, the people were dismissed to their homes.

## The Tropics of Mexico

Arriving at this meeting in Los Angeles a little late, the message medium had just finished giving a reading, then coming to my seat, said; I see you were accompanied into this hall by a gentleman, who shows me a Tropical Country, riding through the dense tropical jungle on a narrow trail, was shot and instantly killed by some one who had waylaid him. He fell dead from his horse. He shows me he is here to see his family who live here, his surviving wife and two daughters and asks your good thoughts, and assistance.

I was very much surprised at this, as I recognized the killing of a gentleman whom I knew in the State of Oaxaca, Republic of Mexico., who was the manager of a large tract of land near the Rail Road, belonging to American People, who became involved in an altercation with one of his Mexican employees, who no doubt waylaid him and shot him from his horse, killing him instantly, when on his way to the R. R. Station. I did not know where his wife and two daughters lived. On inquiry I learned that they lived in Los Angeles, as stated by the speaker, and that she had re-married. This episode impressed my mind, as I had not thought of this affair since leaving Mexico, having no interest in the matter.

## The Atlanta Campaign

A comrade gave me his experience on the Atlanta Campaign, that was duplicated by many other experiences of comrades. He said:—The morning of the battle of New Hope Church, one of the battles fought in this Campaign, in the turning movements of General Sherman, my bunk mate gave me his watch and personal keep-sakes, saying that he would be killed that day. I tried to talk him out of the feeling, but to no avail. On arriving at the New Hope Church, my Regiment went into line exjecting the enemy, when my comrade looking around, said: "This is the place where I will be killed." A few minutes after this a volley fired by the enemy my comrade fell the first man killed in my Regiment on that day.

## Electricity

Because of the study of natural law, electricity is now being harnessed to supply the power to drive the Rail Road trains, all kinds of machinery, heat, light and many other uses, while the scientists and inventors tell us the age of electricity has just began, that the people of the future will look back on this age and time as being in the crude state, just as we look upon the people of Bible times, who never dreamed of the Aeroplane, Electricity, Telephone, Wireless messages by voice and by electricity.

Certainly such achievements of today, under known natural laws, would in Bible times be classed as miraculous or supernatural. We now know there is nothing super-natural. All phenomena is by Natural Law. It is for us to study and know the cause.



## The Telephone

An interesting episode occurred in Los Angeles, Calif. The speaker on the platform holding what appeared to be an ordinary telephone receiver in his hands, with no wire connections. There was simply the stand holding the ear listener-receiver, and he announced that if any one in the audience desired to call up any of his spirit friends and talk to them, he could do so.

At this I asked for the receiver to make the test, as I was sitting several seats from the aisle. The speaker came and handed me the receiver and returned to the platform. I kept my seat, holding the receiver in my left hand, and ear receiver in my right. I called into the phone, Hello, Hello, just as I would in any phone station, which was answered just as I would be in a phone booth calling "Central" in the City office. I was asked who was wanted, who I wanted to talk to. I answered, naming a friend who had passed to the Beyond, when an animated conversation took place, all my questions were answered promptly and to the point, just as if conducted with a neighbor through the City Central station.

One thing certain I conducted this conversation sitting in my seat in the audience, none but strangers around me, I held the transmitter and receiver in my own hands, with no wire connections with the outside, talking as if talking in a telephone exchange by a natural law, that I do not understand.

## The Different Bibles

Probably not over 20% of the people of this earth ever heard of or read the Hebrew, Christian and other Bibles, (Protestant) the latest the Book of Mormon. Of the different Bibles the most conspicuous are these.

- 1 "Vedas" of the Brahmins;
- 2 "Tripitaka" of the Buddhists;
- 3 Averst, (or Zenda-Avesta) of the Persians;
- 4 "The Five Kings" of Chinese Sacred Books of Confucius.
- 5 The Toto-tes King or Sacred Book of Toto-tee.
- 6 The Mohammedan Koran.

All these Bibles teach practically the Ten Commandments, Love thy Neighbor as thyself, Love one another. Do unto others as you would they should do unto you. Healing the sick and afflicted, Charity, Justice, Mercy, Veracity, Right living, Virtuous sweet thoughts. Suffer little children to come unto me. God is Love. Thus promoting present and future happiness—the same teachings that are found in the Christian Bibles of today.

Of the Bibles of the Christian people, the Jews accept the Old Testament, (with 40 books), but do not accept the New Testament. As expressed by one of the leading Rabbis in Los Angeles, "Christ was a very good man with the accent on the good." The Catholic Churches accept 75 books, while the Protestant Churches accept 60 books as the Bible, while the Mormon Church accepts the 60 books of the Protestant Bible they add the New Book of Mormon.

It is far from my desire to attack or criticise the

Bible, but to treasure its beautiful thoughts, and learn of the many facts and happenings of the ages before Christ, in comparison with the present.

Many church people claim the spiritual manifestations and happenings recorded in the Bible were supernatural in character and terminated with the time of Christ, that the manifestations of the like character of today are of the DEVIL and clearly condemned in the Bible.

A study of the manifestations recorded in the Bible show over 120 happenings, such as Materializations, Spirit writings, Independent Spirit Writings, Trumpet Speaking, Trance, Healing, Gifts of Healing, Healing by Magnetised Articles, Independent Spirit Voices, Spirit Communications in Dreams, Spirit Tests, Spirit Levitation. While the expression is often made: Thus sayeth the Lord, The Lord commanded, the Angel of the Lord appeared, The Angel of the Lord commanded, Abraham and Moses met the Lord face to face, the Lord handed down to Moses his covenant written on stones, the Angel stretched forth his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented and stayed the hand of the Angel. While several passages declare the Lord ordered the people to be deceived, and destroyed, killing all the men, women and children, the maidens be taken for wives. That women shall be the servants of man. There are so many of such statements, that it is unpleasant to quote further.

It is pleasant to refer to the statements by both Timothy and John, in the New Testament, saying, "No man hath seen or can see God." "No man hath seen God at any time." "Ye have never heard his voice at any time, or seen his shape." "God is a spirit," besides many other similar statements.

## What the Bible Teaches

Without going into extended details, giving chapter and verse, any Bible reader can easily find and verify the statements made, besides finding many additional instances of Spirit Manifestations and power not noted. Reference is made to the Materialization of three men who stood by Abraham, to whom he gave food, who told him that Sarah should bring forth a child. Jacob wrestled with a man all night and broke his thigh. Adam heard the Lord God walking in the garden. And they saw the God of Israel and did eat and drink. When I looked a hand was sent unto me, a roll of a book was therein. The same hour came forth a man's hand and wrote on the wall of the palace. While they were talking Jesus drew near and went with them. When the doors were shut, Jesus stood in the midst of the Apostles.

## Spirit Writing

And there came a writing from Elijah the prophet, to Jehoram, that he was not walking right. The Lord said unto Moses come up to me unto the mount—and receive the commandments I have written. On the third day the Voice of the Trumpet sounded exceedingly loud. And Lord gave Moses two tables of testimony, written with the finger of God. These words the Lord spake unto your assembly. Delivered unto me two tables of stone, the Covenant.

### **Trumpet Speaking**

The Lord told Moses to come up into the Mount and get the tablets of stone. The Lord gave Moses the tablets of stone written with his finger. The Lord told Moses to hew new stones in place of the broken ones. The Lord delivered to Moses the two tables of stone.

### **Trance**

A deep sleep fell on Abram. I was in a trance when I prayed in the Temple. Saul as he journeyed, and suddenly there shined around about him a light from Heaven. And it was known through all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. While he was speaking with me a deep sleep fell on my face.

### **Healing**

The Lord said to Moses; Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole, every one who looks at it shall live. When he beheld the serpent he lived. Elisha lay his hands upon the child, and the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the soul of the child came unto it again. Jesus healed the sick. Jesus healed the sick with dropsy and all other diseases. Jesus healed the man of the palsy. and all the sick. Asked Jesus to come and heal his son. Go thy son liveth.

### **Gifts of Healing**

Gifts of healing by the spirit. Disciples charged to heal the sick and afflicted. Cleanse the Lepers. Raise the dead. Cast out Devils. Apostles sent to preach and



heal the sick. Paul said stand up and walk. Peter and John went in to the Temple, and healed the crippled and sick.

### **Healing by Magnetised Articles**

Healing by laying staff on the child. Healing by apron. Healing by laying on handkerchiefs . Cast out the evil spirits.

### **Independent Spirit Voices**

The Lord said to Moses, get thou down quickly, behold it is a stiffnecked people. Fell on my face and heard voices speak. The Lord spoke to Saul. The Lord spoke out of a cloud, my beloved son. A voice came from Heaven. The voice came. The angels spoke. A voice saying unto him, Saul why persecutest thou me? The men stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And the Angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. The voice of the Lord came unto him. I heard a voice saying arise Peter slay and eat.

### **Spirit Communications in Dreams**

Dreamed of a ladder ascending to heaven. God came in a dream to Laban. Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to the brethren. Pharaoh's dream. In a dream, a vision, the Lord spoke. Spirits prophesy. Dreams and visions.

### **Spirit Levitation**

The spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither, I know not. Carry Elijah to heaven. Spirit break down the walls. Take me by the hair and lift me to heaven, in a vision. And they came up out of the water. The spirit of the Lord caught up Phillip.

### Thanatopsis

To him who in the love of Nature holds  
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks  
A various language; for his gayer hours  
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile  
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides  
Into his darker musings, with a mild  
And healing sympathy that steals away  
Their sharpness, ere he is aware. When thoughts  
Of the last bitter hour come like a blight  
Over thy spirit and sad image.  
Of the stern agony, and shroud and pall,  
Make thee to shudder, and grow sick at heart;  
Go forth under the open sky, and list  
To Nature's teachings, while from all around  
Earth and her waters, and the depths of air—  
Comes a still voice—Yet a few days, and thee  
The all-beholding sun shall see no more  
In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground,  
Where thy pale form was laid, with many tears,  
Nor in the embrace of ocean, shall exist  
Thy image. Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim  
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again  
And, lost to each human trace, surrendering up  
Thine individual being, thou shall go  
To mix forever with the elements.  
To be a brother to the visible rock  
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain  
Turns with his share, and treads upon. The oak  
Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mould.

Yet not to thine eternal resting place  
Shalt thou retire alone, nor could'st thou wish  
Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down  
With patriarchs of the infant world—with kings  
The powerful of the earth—the wise, the good,  
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,  
All in one mighty sepulchre. The hills  
Rock-robbed and ancient or the sun, the vale,  
Stretching in pensive greatness between;  
The venerable woods—rivers that move  
In majesty and the complaining brooks  
That make the meadows green; and poured round all,  
Old Ocean's grey and melancholy waste—  
Are but the solemn decorations all  
Of the great tomb of man. The golden sun,  
The planets, all the infinite host of heaven,  
Are shining on the sad abodes of death,  
Through the still lapse of ages. All that tread  
The globe are but a handful of the tribes  
That slumber in its bosom. Take the wings  
Of morning, pierce the barren wilderness,  
Or lose thyself in the continuous woods  
Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound,  
Save his own dashings—Yet the dead are there;  
And millions in those solitudes where first  
The flight of years began, have laid them down  
In their last sleep. The dead reign there alone.

So shalt thou rest, and what if thou withdraw  
In silence from the living, and no friend  
Take note of thy departure? All that breathe  
Will share thy destiny. The gay will laugh  
When thou art gone, the solemn brook of care  
Plod on, and each as before will chase  
This favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave  
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come  
And make their bed with thee. As the long train  
Of ages glide away, the sons of men,  
The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes  
In the full strength of years, matron and maid,  
The speechless babe, and the gray-headed man  
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side,  
By those, who in their turn shall follow them.

So live that when thy summonons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan, which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

W. C. BRYANT.





# The Religion of Abraham Lincoln

By REV. B. F. AUSTIN, A.M., D.D.

As the figure of the great Emancipator gradually fades from our vision into the receding past, every new fact or incident in his career throwing light upon his character will be of increasing value to the world.

Especially is this true of facts and incidents in his life disclosing the thoughts of his mind, the motive which actuated him, the emotions that swayed him, and the source of that strength, courage and fidelity which formed the basis of his character. His religious ideas and conduct is, therefore, a subject of supreme interest, especially to the American people.

## Reticent on Religion.

Like many other great men who think and feel much on the subject of religion, Abraham Lincoln talked but little about it. His Creed and his religion, must, therefore, be mainly gathered from the few authentic statements from his lips to personal friends and from his life. We do not place much value on the references to religious subjects in his state documents or speeches—as many of these were doubtless framed to accord with popular conceptions of religion rather than to express his own views. The reference to the Supreme Being in the Emancipation Proclamation, for example, being the suggestion and the composition of Salmon P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Lincoln hav-

ing drafted the document without any express reference to Deity.

### **Sceptical in Youth.**

Abraham Lincoln grew up in a community in which free thought was generally prevalent and was credited with decidedly skeptical views in his early manhood. He never identified himself with any religious organization. Unless he radically changed the views of his boyhood days he did not believe many of the commonly accepted features of church teachings to-day.

It may be questioned by some whether in view of these facts the martyred president had a religion and if he did, what were its main features. The purpose of this paper is to show by authentic statements of his own and others and by his conduct that Lincoln had a clearly defined set of religious ideas and principles and that he acted upon them in the great issues of his life and administration.

### **Facts Never Published Before**

In developing this theme we shall use statements and incidents recorded in nearly all the many biographies of Lincoln, also some new facts never published before, and some other facts that, though they have been published, are not generally known.

That Mr. Lincoln while not a church member, was not in any degree opposed to churches or church work, but in deepest sympathy with the spirit and simple teachings of the Nazarene Prophet, we know from his recorded statement to Hon. H. C. Deming:—

"On an occasion I shall never forget, the conversation turned upon religious subjects and Mr. Lincoln made this impressive remark: "I have never united myself to any church, because I have found difficulty in giving my assent without mental reservation to long, complicated statements of Christian Doctrine which characterizes their articles of belief and confessions of faith. When any church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership the Saviour's condensed statement of the substance of both law and gospel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thy self,' that Church will I join with all my heart and soul.'"

#### Views of Personal Friends.

Among the many writers of his biographies or reminiscences of personal experiences with Lincoln, Hugh McCullough, Secretary of the Treasury, has expressed, in our view, most clearly and truly the facts regarding Lincoln's religious character. This is his statement:—"He was a man of strong religious convictions, but he cared nothing for the dogmas of the Churches, and had little respect for their creeds."

Walt Whitman was inclined to think that the foundation of Lincoln's character was largely found in his religious nature. He wrote: "I should say the invisible foundations and vertebra of his character were mystical, abstract, moral and spiritual. As to his religious nature, it seems to me to have certainly been of the amplest deepest-rooted kind."

John B. Alley, a member of Congress from '60 to '64 and an intimate friend of Lincoln, declared: "In his re-

ligious views Mr. Lincoln was very nearly what we would call a free thinker . . . He had little faith in the popular religions of the times. He said to me one day, that he felt assured that the great Author of our being, whether called God or Nature, it mattered little which, would deal very mercifully with poor, and erring humanity in the other, and he hoped better, world. No man was more tolerant of the opinions and feelings of others in the directions of religious sentiment, or had less faith in religious dogmas."

### Three Articles in His Creed.

Abraham Lincoln may be said to have had three very definite and strongly marked articles in his faith for though he never professed belief in any particular creed, he had one, since every man, if he does not accept one of the formulated creeds, manufactures one for himself.

First, he believed in a Supreme Being. There does not appear to be anything recorded in his speeches or any authentic reports of statements that fell from his lips to show just what Lincoln's conception of the Deity was. If we are to accept Mr. Alley's statement, Mr. Lincoln thought it mattered little whether we spoke of God or Nature. He seems to have failed to make any clear distinction between them. We find in his writings and speeches no recognition of the personality of the Godhead, but rather a general conception of a great Power or Principle underlying all phenomena. Probably Lincoln would have subscribed to Pope's statement; "All are but parts of one stupendous whole, Whose body Nature is, and God the Soul."

Second, he believed in a future life in which man's condition was, measurably at least, determined by his conduct here. He recognized human responsibility and was deeply impressed with the sense of duty. Whatever doubts he may have had as to the Bible and Christian dogmas, we never find in his speeches or conversations the faintest hint or shadow of doubt of man's continued life after death.

Third, He believed in the open door between the two worlds—the mortal and the Spirit realms—that is to say, in the possibility of mortals communicating with the spirits of departed men and women.

### **Proof of His Spiritualism.**

As this statement has been made by some writers and disputed by others, we shall offer some proofs of Mr. Lincoln's belief in spirit return and intercourse with mortals.

We first call attention to the statement of the late Col. S. P. Kase in a pamphlet entitled, "The Emancipation Proclamation, How and by Whom it was given to Abraham Lincoln," written and published by himself about 1900.

### **Testimony of Simon P. Kase.**

Simon P. Kase, one of the most remarkable men of his day, was born in Rush township, Pa. in 1814. He became a successful manufacturer in Danville, Pa. and afterwards a dealer in railroad iron in New York, then a railroad builder in Michigan. In 1861 on solicitation of his nephew, Wm. G. Kase, then President of the Reading and Columbia R. R. Co., and of its Board of Direc-



tors, Col. Kase took charge of the construction of their road, all previous efforts having failed. He went to Washington and presented the matter to the Congressional Committee on Roads and Canals together with a bill appropriating \$450,000 in United States bonds for an equal amount of bonds of the Columbia and Reading R.R. Other railroad lines opposed the grant and for four weeks the contest waged, ending in victory for Mr. Kase and his road. While in Washington in 1861 on this business, Mr. Kase tells us how he was led to call on J. B. Conkling, a medium whom he had known in New York three years before; how Mr. Conkling urged him to take a letter to President Lincoln, and how though he, (Col. Kase) was not then acquainted with Lincoln he consented to do so, as Mr. Conkling assured him he (Kase) could see the President while Mr. Conkling could not. He tells us how he and Mr. Conkling went to the White House and, through mistake of the servant in confounding the names Kase and Chase (Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury) he was granted an interview. Mr. Kase recites the President's disappointment in finding it was a stranger and not the Secretary who had called to see him, but in learning that Mr. Kase was from Danville, Pa., Mr. Lincoln began talking about Pennsylvania matters. He goes on to tell how, at last, he presented Mr. Conkling's letter asking for an interview with the President and how Mr. Lincoln, after glancing over the letter, then read it aloud to Mr. Kase. It was as follows: "I have been sent from the city of New York by Spiritual influences pertaining to the interest of the nation. I can't return until I see you. Ap-  
point the time."

J. B. Conkling."

Mr. Lincoln asked some questions as to its meaning and then turning to Mr. Kase he detailed to the President experiences that had led him to a belief in spirit communication, and the President manifested great interest therein and said: "Tell Mr. Conkling I will see him on Sunday between 9 and 10 a.m."

### Lincoln Solemnly Admonished.

Four weeks later in the gallery of the House Mr. Kase met Mrs. Laurie of Georgetown and was invited to call at her home. He learned through Judge Wattells that she had a daughter, Mrs. Miller, a medium, and that evening he and the Judge attended one of her meetings. There he met President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln. The following is his account of the services: "After speaking and passing the courtesies of the day, perhaps ten minutes intervening, I saw a young girl approaching the President with a measured step, with her eyes closed, and walking up to the knees of the President, accosted him as follows: 'Sir, you have been called to the position you now occupy for a very great purpose. The world is in universal bondage; it must be physically set free, that it may mentally rise to its proper status. There is a Spiritual Congress supervising the affairs of this nation as well as a Congress at Washington. This Republic is leading the van of Republics through the world!'" This being her text, she lectured the President for a full hour upon the importance of emancipating the slave, saying that the war could not end until slavery was abolished: That God destined all men to be free that they may rise to their proper status. Her language was truly sublime and full of arguments grand in the ex-

treme, asserting that from the time his proclamation of freedom was issued, there would be no reverses to our army.

As soon as this young girl, (who I thought could not be out of her teens, but who I afterwards understood was the celebrated trance-medium, Nettie Colbourn of New York State) came out of the trance, she ran off, frightened to think that she had been talking to the President.

Thus it was that President Lincoln was convinced as to the course he should pursue: the command coming from that All-seeing Spirit through the instrumentality of the angel world, was not to be overlooked. He, like a faithful servant, then convinced of his duty, feared not to do it, and to proclaim freedom by the Emancipation Proclamation to 4,000,000 slaves. That Proclamation was issued on September 22, 1862 to take effect the first day of January 1863. In the intermediate time the back bone of the rebellion was broken, the Union army had, in diverse places, twenty-six battles every one of them except two being a success upon the Union side. Thus the prediction of the medium was fulfilled."

### Francis B. Carpenter and Capt. Keffer.

Mr. Francis B. Carpenter, the distinguisher artist who painted the Emancipation Proclamation and who wrote, "The Inner Life of Abraham Lincoln," declares: "I am not prepared to say that Mr. Lincoln was a Spiritualist. I do know that he had faith in spiritual comfort and *believed we were, in a measure directed by spiritual teachers and guidance.*"

It is a fact well established that during the summer of 1861 the President attended, several times a week,

the seances of Mrs. Stewart in Georgetown, going with a few gentlemen friends in a cab to a point near her residence where the cab was dismissed, and he with his companions and a few friends from different quarters met by appointment for these services.

This we have on the unimpreachable, sworn testimony of Capt. Keffer now of Philadelphia, who frequently met the President that summer in Col. Baker's tent which was then located about half way between Washington and Bladensburg where the Colonel's California regiment was stationed. Capt. Keffer, who was known by President Lincoln to be a Spiritualist, was detailed for duty and had charge of a squad of soldiers of the Washington guards and was instructed to guard Mr. Lincoln two or three times a week on his evening visits to Georgetown. The Captain tells us in his affidavit how he learned that these meetings were seances from a young man in attendance. These services were held from two to three times a week during August and September in 1861.

### **Mrs. Maynard and Warren Chase.**

Mrs. Maynard, in her book, "Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist?" from which we shall presently make extracts, declares: "It was during the remarkable winter of '64 and '65 when the rebellion was in its death throes that I know of the visits of Chas. Colchester and Chas. Foster (two well known mediums of that time) to the White House, and of their sittings with President Lincoln. Through them and through myself he received warnings of his approaching fate; but his fearless, confident nature disregarded the warnings received." She



also declares that Mrs. Lucy A. Hamilton and Chas. Redmond were among his mediumistic friends.

Warren Chase, a member of the Illinois Legislature, in a published letter written from Cobden, Ill, speaking of the medium, Chas. Colchester, says, "In January 1865 while I was lecturing in Washington, D.C. I often saw Colchester, who was astonishing many public men by his tests. I know that he visited President Lincoln and that he often was sent for by him and gave him evidence of spirit intercourse, as did also Mrs. Nettie Maynard of White Plains, N.Y., before her marriage to Mr. Maynard. She stopped where I did in Washington and I know when she was sent for by President Lincoln, and as I knew him well. I knew he was a Spiritualist. Much if this early history is recorded in my "Forty years of the Spiritual Rostrum."

Of all the many mediums consulted by Mr. Lincoln, Mrs. Maynard, then Nettie Colburn, seems, from concurrent testimony, to have been the one most frequently in requisition and most intimately associated through her mediumship with the President and the very critical condition of public affairs during '62, '63 and '64.

If the statements made and published by the late Col. Kase, Mrs. Maynard and others are true, Miss Colburn was for years on terms of intimacy with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, and served as medium for them and others in seances held at the home of Mr. Cranstoun Laurie in Georgetown. She was a frequent visitor on invitation to the White House and always a welcome caller or guest, served as medium for Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln alone in the White House and also exercised her gifts there for them when friends were present, also many times for Mr. Lincoln alone.



### **Lincoln Followed Spiritual Counsel.**

In these seances, it is claimed that communications purporting to come from the Fathers of the Republic through her lips were addressed pointedly to Mr. Lincoln, and on a few occasions discourses of an hour length were given him. At such times Mr. Lincoln seemed deeply interested, asking many questions, and discussed the nature of the messages and, as subsequent events proved, followed the counsels thus given. In all this intercourse with the Lincoln family extending over years Miss Colbourn served on the footing of a friend and never accepted fee or reward. In the book already referred to, dictated upon her deathbed, and published in 1891 in Philadelphia, there are many accounts of these seances giving dates, names of visitors and some outline of the communications given to Mr. Lincoln. All purporting to come from discarnate spirits. Many statements of facts are also given showing that, in a large measure Mr. Lincoln trusted in and was guided by these counsels. The limits of this article will not permit of many illustrations. We include a few samples of many that might be given.

As we have seen, Mr. Lincoln had seances with Mr. Conkling and Mrs. Stewart in 1861 and with Foster and Colchester before his first sitting with Nettie Colbourn. This occurred in December, 1862, in the Red Parlor at the White House. After describing her sensations on the occasion and the entry of Mr. Lincoln into the room while Mrs. Miller was playing a piano, Miss Colburn tells of her meeting with the President: "Then I was led 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."

Then Mr. Lincoln questioned her about her mediumship and while Mr. Cranstoun Laurie was making reply to one of the President's questions, Miss Colbourn lost consciousness. She continues her story thus:—"For more than an hour I was made to talk to him, and I learned from my friends afterward that it was upon a matter that he seemed to fully 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 it was to be the *crowning event of his administration and his life*; and that, while he was being counseled by two strong parties to defer the enforcement of it, 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 over-ruling Providence.*"

Those present declared they lost sight of that timid girl in the majesty of the utterance, the strength and force of the language and the importance of that which was uttered and seemed to realize that some strong, masculine personality was giving speech to almost Divine commands. She goes on with her narrative thus: "*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 recollect my whereabouts. A gentleman present then said in a low tone, "Mr. President did you notice anything peculiar in the method of 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, it is very singular, very!" with marked emphasis. Mr. Soames 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 such a pressure.*" At this point the gentlemen drew around him, and spoke together in low tones, Mr. Lincoln saying 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 anyone present can understand.*"

### Lincoln Sought Spirit Guidance.

In February '63 Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln attended a seance at Mr. Laurie's in Georgetown. Mrs. Lincoln had arranged it but it was not expected that Mr. Lincoln would be present. In the evening, however, when Mrs. Lincoln was about entering the carriage, Mr. Lincoln

having left a cabinet meeting under *an unaccountable impulse* found Mrs. Lincoln about to start to a seance and suddenly resolved to accompany her. According to Mrs. Maynard's account of the transaction his coming was prophesied to the circle before he arrived and Mr. Laurie on extending a warm greeting to him at the door took occasion to say, "You were expected."

Mr. Lincoln stopped in the removal of his coat and said, "Expected? Why it was only five minutes since I knew I was coming." and then it was explained to him how they had learned through Mrs. Maynard's prophecy of his coming. At Mr. Lincoln's request, Mr. and Mrs. Laurie and their daughter Mrs. Miller sang some old Scotch songs. Mr. Lincoln sat in an old high-backed rocking chair, with his legs crossed, leaning back in utter weariness and with closed eyes, listening to the songs, and looked tired and haggard. He seemed, declares Mrs. Maynard, to have aged many years in the last few weeks. Turning to Miss Colburn he said, "Well, Miss Nettie, do you think you have anything to say to me tonight?" "If I have not," she replied, "there may be others who have." He nodded pleasantly and said, "Suppose we see what they have to tell us." Miss Colburn at once began to talk to the President in the name of a certain Dr. Bamford, in quaint dialect and old fashioned methods of expression. According to the testimony of those present the following in the substance of his remarks:—That a very precarious state of things existed at the front, where General Hooker had just taken command; that the army was totally demoralized; regiments stacking their arms, refusing to obey orders or do duty, threatening a general retreat and declaring their purpose to return to Washington, etc., etc.



When the picture had been painted in vivid colors Mr. Lincoln quickly remarked, "You seem to understand the situation. Can you point out a remedy?" "Yes" replied the professed Dr. Bamford, "If you have the courage to use it." Mr. Lincoln smiled and said, "Try me."

The answer was, "The remedy lies in yourself. Go in person to the front, taking with you your wife and children; leaving behind official dignity and all manner of display. Resist the importunities of officials to accompany you; seek the tents of the private soldiers; inquire into their grievances. Show yourself what you are, "The Father of your people."

Mr. Lincoln said, "If that will do any good, it is easily done."

The answer was, "It will do all that is required. It will unite the soldiers as one man. It will unite them to you by bands of steel."

A long conversation then ensued between the presumed Dr. Bamford and Lincoln in which the President was told he would be renominated and re-elected to the Presidency.

After the proceedings were over Mr. Lincoln was asked if affairs at the front were as bad as depicted.

After asking all present not to speak of these things he declared affairs in the army could hardly be exaggerated and that a Major who was with his party had just brought dispatches from the front announcing a state of affairs "pretty much as our old friend has shown it." and that they were just having a Cabinet meeting to consider the matter, "when something, I know not what, induced me to leave the room and come down stairs where I found Mrs. Lincoln in the act of coming here. I



*felt it might be of service for me to come. I did not know wherefore."*

The next issue of John Forney's Gazette bore the startling head lines, "*The President about to visit the Army of the Potomac*" and subsequent events showed a literal obedience on his part to the orders through Miss Colburn's lips and proved a grand fulfillment of her prophecy as to the very beneficial effect of that visit on the army.

### **Spirit Counsel Helped the Union Arms**

On another occasion with the Hon. D. E. Soames and Mrs. Soames, Miss Colburn and her friend Miss Hannum visited the White House on the invitation of Mrs. Lincoln to meet Gen. Sickles. In this seance Miss Colburn while entranced delivered a very earnest address to the President in relation to the condition of the freedmen in and around Washington, declaring their condition deplorable in the extreme and urging the President to appoint a special committee to investigate the condition of these people. Shortly after this occurrence, Miss Colburn returned to her home in Hartford, Conn. for a few weeks and while there the telegraph despatches went over the country, "President Lincoln has appointed a Committee to investigate the condition of the freedmen." It is a matter of history that the outcome of the investigation was the formation of the "Freedmen's Bureau."

On still another occasion Miss Colbourn was summoned to the White House and met two officers of the army. Mrs. Lincoln and Hon. D. E. Soames, who were in the room, withdrew to one end of it and allowed Mr. Lincoln and his two military friends to hear the inspirational address. This lasted, according to the account, one hour, at the end of which Miss Colburn found herself

standing pencil in hand by a long table on which was spread a map of the Southern States. It appears from statements of Mrs. Soames, who witnessed the seance though he did not hear the message, that Miss Colbourn had been tracing lines of military operations upon the map and that the President and the officers listened with breathless attention. At the close, Mr. Lincoln was heard to remark, "It is astonishing how every line she has drawn, conforms to the plan agreed upon." "Yes," answered one of the military gentlemen, "it is very astonishing." Later on Mr. Lincoln remarked on the fact that Miss Colbourn did not require eyes to enable her to draw as she had done all her tracing of lines with her eyes closed.

Summoned home to Hartford, Conn. to visit her sick father in February, just before the second Inauguration, Miss Colburn having an engagement at the White House for the following week called to excuse herself to Mrs. Lincoln for leaving the city. There she met Mr. Lincoln and had her last interview with him. After some pleasant interchanging of conversation, he turned and asked, "But what do our friends say of us now?" alluding to the purported messages that had come through her lips from the spirits of the departed. "What they predict for you, Mr. Lincoln, has come to pass," said Miss Colburn, "and you are to be inaugurated a second time. But, they also re-affirm that the shadow they have spoken of still hangs over you." He turned half impatiently away and said, "Yes, I know, I have letters from all over the country from your kind of people, mediums I mean, warning me against some dreadful plot against my life, but I don't think the knife is made, or the bullet run that will reach it. Nobody wants to harm me."