

JULY  
1887

# FACTS

Monthly  
Magazine

DEVOTED  
TO

MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA

INCLUDING

Psychometry, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Mesmerism,  
Trance, Inspiration, and Physical Mediumship; Prayer, Mind,  
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PUBLISHED BY

**Facts Publishing Co.**  
BOSTON MASS.

**FACTS PUBLISHING COMPANY.**

Post-Office Drawer 5323, Boston, Mass.

**L. L. WHITLOCK, EDITOR.**

All editorial or personal matter should be addressed to L. L. WHITLOCK.

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We are always glad to receive descriptions of any phenomena suited to our magazine.

***See third page of cover for changes and additions.***

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

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We are frequently asked: "Who is the best medium for a given phase?" It is impossible to say, since it is a well-known fact that the medium who is able to become *en rapport* with one sitter, and to see his surroundings and become a messenger for his friends, may utterly fail to do so for another, owing undoubtedly to some mysterious law which is not generally understood.

We advise our friends to try until they find a medium suited to themselves, and in consulting any medium to use at least the same consideration and good sense they would in seeking the advice of a lawyer, physician, or minister. As for the question of charge, there is no reason why a medium, who gives valuable counsel, should be branded as an impostor or extortioner if he or she demands a fair compensation for their services, providing the price has been agreed upon, as would be the case in any other business transaction. We do not intend to insert in our columns advertisements of disreputable mediums, or pretenders to mediumship, who use this cloak to cover all kinds of nefarious practices; but hope they will be a guide to those who desire genuine spirit manifestations.

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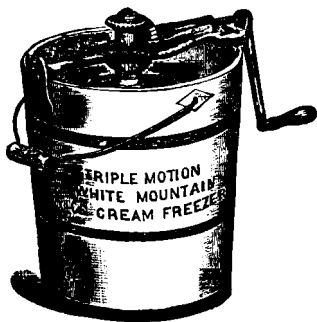
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# FACTS.

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JULY, 1887.

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[From the *Newburyport Daily News*.]

## HAD A TOOTH PULLED AFTER BEING MESMERIZED BY A REPORTER.

In the office of Dr. J. M. Brown last evening, Mr. Charles W. Hidden performed a feat in mesmerism which is regarded as wonderful. The subject was a niece of Mr. Hidden, who resides with him, and who has for a long time been suffering with an aching tooth. She was first put to sleep by the methods used by Professor Cadwell, whose pupil Mr. Hidden is, and was afterwards induced to sit in the operator's chair under the impression that it was an orchestra chair in the theatre. She gazed wonderingly about as if enjoying the situation, and then, being told that she was too sleepy to sit up, passed into a calm sleep, during which Dr. Brown extracted the tooth. The patient did not move a muscle during the operation and was plainly unconscious, every effect being the same as noted when anæsthetics are taken. After recovering from her sleep, upon being questioned regarding the matter, she expressed incredulity at the thought that her tooth was gone.

Dr. Brown, in conversation with a *News* representative this morning, expressed himself as surprised at Mr. Hidden's success, and stated that he never witnessed anything of the kind before except when, about ten years ago, a well-known Spiritualist medium went into a trance, during which two teeth were taken out. He is fully convinced that the lady knew nothing about the operation.

## A METHODIST'S FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA.

By DR. BALDORF, Jackson, Mich.

Many years ago I was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and did not believe in Spiritualism at all. I thought it all humbug, still did not know but it might be true. One day a gentleman came into my office while I was out. Upon my return I asked him who and what he was; he informed me that he was a magnetic healer; he was very illiterate. Said I: "What can you do?" He stepped to my office table, and putting one hand upon it, he said: "Is my drummer here?" Three distinct raps for yes were immediately given. "Will you drum?" "Yes." The gentleman then began whistling "Yankee Doodle," and the raps upon the table kept perfect time. I was surprised, and had it been the medium's table I should have looked for some electric battery, but it was *my* table. I said to him: "What else can you do?" This time he took his pocket handkerchief, and standing a little way from the table touched one corner of it to the table, and again came the raps. "What else can you do?" He then put his hands on the table and asked that it be lifted clear of the floor, and it was done. I had in my office a slate, on the frame of which I had in my leisure moments carved my name. The medium asked me to clean it; I did so; he then took it and held it under the table, and on it was a message for me, with the name of a friend signed. I then asked if I might hold the slate; this request was granted, the medium resting his hand on my shoulder. The message received was seven lines in length, and a friend's name signed.

My skepticism was going, and fast too. Turning to him I said: "Are you the devil?" "Yes." I looked at him, then said: "You are the man I want to see; God bless you." "I can get something else,—materialization." "Well, I would like to see that." Accordingly, that evening I invited a few friends, and a small room leading from my office, which had formerly been used as a photographer's dark room, was arranged; a small aperture, perhaps twelve inches square, was draped with a black cloth. The medium was then prepared; we sewed his coat-collar together in front, his coat-sleeves sewed through his undershirt and sewed



close around his wrists, and his pants to his drawers. He was then seated in a chair and his coat-sleeves sewed to his pants, and his pants, back of his heels, tacked to the floor. He was then securely tied into the chair. We closed the door and left him in that condition. We had sung the first line of "Sweet Bye and Bye" when two bare arms came through the aperture, then two small ones, as though belonging to a child not more than six or seven years old. I began to tremble, for my Methodism was going fast. A glass of water was called for, and was passed into the temporary cabinet. Almost instantly a bell, which had previously been placed in the cabinet, was rung, and a tapping made upon the glass. A voice said: "Come in and see your medium." I grabbed a light and went in, and found the medium as we had left him. Almost instantly after going out three hands were shown.

Some time after I went to Des Moines, Iowa, 150 miles from home, to see a test medium. When I called for my sitting I told her that I desired not to tell my name. She seemed to think this all right, and as we sat together in the room she said to me: "There is a young man standing by your side; he died when very young, and has grown in spirit life." I asked his name. She answered: "It is Henry." I had lost a brother 16 months old, and his name was Henry. "Another man stands by you, rather short, light hair and blue eyes; it is your cousin, and his name is George; but the last name I cannot pronounce." I said: "Is it Deffenbaugh?" She immediately answered that it was. "Another comes, tall, commanding in appearance, and he looks like a minister; it is your father, and he has a Bible in his hand." I told her that my father was not a minister, but a strict Methodist, and just before he passed away he asked me to read to him from the Bible, which I did. She then passed into the trance state, and in a loud voice said: "How do you do, doctor? I plastered your house in Rome, Iowa." I asked for his name, and he answered: "It is Marsh." True, a man by that name had plastered my house in that place.

She then came to herself, but the one that my heart was aching, yea, breaking, for had not come. She then said: "Oh, go away, go away." I importuned her to allow the spirit to control her, but she said: "No. I see a young man with light hair; I see

water, a boat, and hear the report of a gun ; he falls back and is dead ; he was shot while getting into the boat." That was true. A friend, my son, and myself had gone out duck-hunting, and had killed some, and my son had gone up the stream a little way to get the boat so as to procure the birds we had shot. I heard the report of his gun, but supposed he had shot more ducks, so did not feel alarmed, but after waiting some little time I began to fear that perhaps all was not right, and my friend went to look after him, I following. Upon arriving where the boat was we found him in the water dead, shot while stepping into the boat. And had it not been for a little knowledge of Spiritualism, I do not know as I could have borne up under the shock ; but I felt my son was with me, and with that thought I was somewhat reconciled.

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### EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SEANCE.

By MR. W. F. ALLEN.

LYNN, July 21, 1887.

Editor of *Facts*:

MY DEAR SIR,—I have been greatly interested in your splendid magazine, *Facts*, and take the liberty to enclose a short description of a very peculiar test seen by myself.

Very truly yours,

W. F. ALLEN,

P. O. Box 318, Lynn, Mass.

On the evening of the 15th of June, 1887, I attended a public seance given in Odd Fellows' Hall, Lynn, by a young medium, Mr. Skinner. The tests given were very remarkable for several reasons. In the first place, to avoid all appearance of deception, a canopy was constructed in plain view of the audience, by a committee chosen at the time. As a further proof of the absence of any trickery I might add that a very large number of people, most of whom were skeptics, were present. Before describing the experiments I will state that Mr. Skinner is only a young man about twenty years of age, and appears to have had but little education, yet he is very clever, being also capable of performing some very interesting tricks, which of course are merely dextrous manipulations, and are easily explained. He introduces

these more for the amusement of the audience than for any other purpose, while the spiritualistic tests are being prepared.

On this occasion Mr. John H. Nichols, a gentleman who has long been antagonistic to the claims of mediums, attended the seance, and came upon the platform in order to expose, if possible, the deceptions that he expected Mr. Skinner to use. He therefore would not consent to tying the medium with a rope offered by him, but insisted upon using a heavy length of clothes line, measuring exactly one hundred feet in length. With this he bound Mr. Skinner in a most secure manner, so that he could barely breathe. Every knot in the rope was sealed, and extra precaution was taken to secure the wrists and hands.

A trunk of ordinary appearance was then produced and minutely examined by the committee, who were satisfied beyond question that it was perfectly solid and incapable of being used as a trick. This trunk was closed, locked, and then the lock was sealed. After this it was bound with a rope two hundred feet long in every conceivable manner, so that there was hardly a square inch of vacant space not covered by the cord, which was also afterward covered in many places by handkerchiefs and seals placed in a peculiar manner.

All these things having been prepared, both Mr. Skinner and the trunk were placed in the cabinet, and it was then closed. In exactly twelve seconds by actual reckoning after the curtain of the cabinet was drawn a whistle was blown from the inside, and the curtain was immediately opened, revealing nothing but the trunk, bound and secured in just the same manner as before. A most thorough examination was made, and no trace of confederacy or fraud in any way could be found. The ropes, seals, etc. were then cut from the trunk, and after being unlocked it was opened, and Mr. Skinner was seen to be lying inside the trunk, bound the same as when left.

I consider these phenomena very convincing proofs of spiritual force, and no sensible person can deny my theory, and the veracity of my statements cannot be doubted by the large and intelligent audience who witnessed the seance, a large number of the skeptics being completely nonplussed; but one newspaper reporter still insisted upon declaring him a "most wonderful magician," and that his tests were produced by "magical power."

The reporter, evidently loth to admit a self-evident fact, tries to assume for it some other title, and this he calls magic.

Mr. Skinner is possessed of a very strong hypnotic power, and in this line has made many strange revelations in clairvoyance and psychometry. He has since the discovery of his powers practiced quite extensively in the West and South, this being the first appearance in the Eastern states. He will, doubtless, before long produce many new and interesting forms of mediumship, with which he appears to be gifted.

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### EXPERIENCES OF MRS. CARRIE E. S. TWING, OF WESTVILLE, N. Y.

About ten years ago I was at Dunkirk, and visited Mrs. Swain, a physical medium. We sat around a table under which bells, a tambourine, and other articles were placed, for the use of the spirits who might wish to manifest. In a short time the bells were rung by Mrs. Swain's control, after the manner of fire bells, and sounded like them. "Ikabod," my own control, said: "There is going to be a fire, too; you men better go out to Centre Street, for in a certain block [naming it] some men are getting ready to set a fire." The gentlemen went out and followed the direction that had been given, and found a can of kerosene oil and a quantity of waste. They did not find the men, but did their tools.

#### No. 2.

About a year ago a friend of mine at Westville, N. Y., was very sick, and was not expected to live. This lady, Mrs. Sarah Graves, was very anxious that I should lay out the body when she should pass away. I was called from home about this time, and before I left I went to see my friend. She said to me: "Hurry up and come home just as soon as you finish your business." I went to Kingsville, Ohio, and on Sunday evening I attended a circle at the residence of Mr. John Smith. A medium was controlled, and, turning to me, said: "Why did you go? Why did you go?" Then I asked who it was, and she answered: "Sarah Graves." I left for home the next day, and upon my arrival was met by some of the friends, and I immediately asked for Sarah Graves.

They told me that on Sunday evening she had exclaimed just as the medium had; calling my name, she said: "Why did you go?" She died the next day. Now, I would like to know how to account for it. Did Sarah Graves leave her body and control that medium, or what?

---

### WRITING UPON THE ARM.

By MR. ELISHA MORSE, of Minneapolis, Minn.

On the morning of July 15th, at Onset Bay, I called upon Dr. and Mrs. Blake, of Brooklyn, N. Y. After conversing for a few moments Mrs. Blake said: "I feel something upon my arm." On rolling up her sleeve we saw, in raised red letters, the name "Annie" on one side, and on the other "Lizzie," the names of my wife and daughter. These names disappeared in a few moments. I then had a sitting with Mrs. Blake, and held converse with my wife and daughter through her mediumship. They told me that they had impressed me to walk down past that cottage when I was undecided as to where to go, as they wished to give me the test by writing their names on the medium's arm. Mrs. Blake told me that she knew nothing whatever as to my wife's given name, or of her having passed away.

We had a similar experience with Mrs. Blake, at which time the phenomenon of writing upon the arm appeared; also a message from Mrs. Blake which identified in a degree the individuality of the persons manifesting.—ED.

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### ETHERIALIZATION WITHOUT A CABINET.

DR. FRED. CROCKETT, Boston, Mass.

I was treating not long since, at her home in East Weymouth, Mrs. Nellie Whitney, a materializing medium, and as I approached her I saw she became illuminated, and that sparks seemed to be thrown off, which passed over the bed clothing and my hands. These sparks looked, as near as I can describe them, like lightning-bugs. From the side of her neck there came a child's hand

and arm; the hand became disconnected from the medium and patted my hand; then there came from her head a white light, and as it seemed to burst there appeared a face, then a small form in the same way, which Mrs. Whitney recognized as her child. In a few minutes about seven feet from the medium the same kind of a white cloud appeared, but quite large, and from it a perfect form, or rather face, the form being draped with fleecy white. This form floated away and out into the forest and was gone.

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### A COMMUNICATION GIVEN AT ONSET.

By MR. EDGAR W. EMERSON.

Turning to a young man in the audience at Facts meeting, Onset Bay, July 14, 1887, Mr. Edgar Emerson said: "You have been somewhat discouraged lately, and have hardly known what to do, and you have wondered why you came here, but I say it is all right. Your sister is here, and Dr. Lewis comes too; they are trying to influence you, and I think they will. Your grandfather is here, who used to live in your family. I see that you will be stronger physically and financially. You have good healing powers. You have paddled your own canoe a long time for one so young, but you are all right, and you won't have to go back into a machine shop again."

All of the above was pronounced correct by the young man, who had never seen Mr. Emerson before.

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### A SEANCE IN THE TEMPLE AT ONSET.

During our visit at Onset we attended the seance described below. Mrs. Powell being a shorthand writer, we asked her to make a report of it for *Facts*.

Mr. Powell and Mr. Bridge have been giving seances in a public hall. They have apparently tried to make their conditions *perfectly satisfactory*, but questions have been, as they always are, raised as to the genuineness of some of the manifestations. In these days of controversy it is impossible to find a medium whom

some one will not question. We do not profess to be sufficiently expert to be able always to decide the absolute value of phenomena, its origin and genuineness, but we are very sure, from the numerous tests and psychometric illustrations given by Mr. Edwin Powell at Onset this season, that he is a very fine medium. That he should get one reading correct is not strange, as hundreds of mediums could do this, but that twenty-five persons should have received answers to their letters, or pertinent information, in a large hall, is worthy of note. Especially is this valuable to Spiritualism, when we consider that these mediums have given many people an opportunity to see and test their mediumship who could not afford to pay a dollar each in a small company, or for private sittings. It is this feature we wish especially to call attention to.

Mr. Bridge, after all objections are considered, is, we believe, beyond question a very fine physical medium. Read the description of conditions in the article on "Facts Convention."

ONSET, MASS., Aug. 12, 1887.

Editor of *Facts* :

DEAR SIR, — A most novel and interesting seance was held at the Onset Temple last evening, by Edwin Powell, of London, Eng., and C. H. Bridge, of Boston, Mr. Powell being the mental medium, and Mr. Bridge the physical. Mr. Powell prefaced his part of the exercises by a few remarks, in the course of which he said that he would give to people in the audience twenty-five slips of paper and twenty-five envelopes, that each person holding the writing materials might write a question addressed to a spirit friend, seal the envelope, and lay it with the others on the table, the writing all being done during his absence from the hall.

The first one taken up impressed the medium to say: "I realize the presence of a spirit who seemed to be dissipated while in earth life, and who is sorry now, and feels that his life was not one to look back upon with pleasure. He passed out in California, and comes to the writer of this note, who has signed no name. The name of the spirit is George Flowers." This was pronounced correct in every particular by the gentleman writing the question.

The next one was refused an answer by the spirit addressed, who said, through the medium: "We cannot tell you who will be the next of our family to pass over, or how soon it will be; and

if we could tell you, it would not be proper to do so." This question read: "Who will be the next to pass over, and how soon will it be?"

The sealed questions were all read in succession, being simply held in the hand for a few seconds to get the connection of thought. The audience were deeply interested, and preserved the utmost silence and attention during the readings.

On taking up one envelope Mr. Powell said: "I feel a most loving influence from this letter, which makes me wish to go to some one in the audience and embrace them, and a spirit voice says: 'Yes, Carrie is here.'" The answers came in various ways, some by the direct speaking of the spirit to the medium, some by his guide, Pearl, reading and answering them, and some by psychometry or soul-reading; but in every case the same means were employed to obtain the result, namely, holding the sealed letter in the hand. In answer to one, Pearl, the guide, said: "I did not know your mother before she was married, and so I can't tell you what her name was." The question was unaddressed and with no signature, and ran thus: "Tell me what my mother's name was before she was married?" A question to "Sarah Watson, can I hear from you tonight?" was answered by Pearl for the spirit: "She will try to communicate from the cabinet in the physical seance," which she did in writing. An appeal to "Brother Robert, are you here?" was replied to: "Yes, Robert is here."

One lady's question was: "Mother, is it conflicting influences that make me so restless?" Mother says: "No, my child, it is not conflicting influences of spirits surrounding you, but rather your physical condition which causes your restless state of mind." A spirit comes and says: "Yes, I have materialized. Hattie." This in answer to a direct question to that effect. Next letter is read: "Brother Frank, have you appeared to me in spirit form?" Answer: "Yes, Charlie, I have." "Frank" A. Bentley asks: "Is it best for me to go home next Monday?" A spirit friend says: "Let the state of the weather here and at home, and your state of health at that time decide."

The next one reads: "Father, if this is true, sign your name." Father says: "When I can communicate with you personally I will sign my name or give it to you, and you must not accept it if I do not." This question was unsigned.



One says in a letter: "Can my friend who has been dead seven years communicate with me?" Pearl answers: "It makes no difference whether your friend has been dead (as you call it) seven or seventeen years, if conditions are right, and your spirit in harmony with that friend, you can receive messages from them." An appeal to, "Father, please give me auntie's full name as a test," is answered by saying: "I will try to give you auntie's name in the cabinet through the other medium."

A mother writes: "Is my dear son David here tonight?" Spirit David tells the medium to say to her: "Yes, mother, I am here." One writes: "Will Henry Bullock communicate with me?" Pearl says: "Chief Bullock is here and would like to give a message, but the time is short and so many letters to be read."

The question is asked: "Dear father, will it be necessary for me to go to England to establish my claim to your estate?" Spirit father says to the medium: "Tell my son it will not be necessary as a preliminary, for a lawyer can do as well, but you must go in person to take possession, and I wish to tell you in private a great deal in relation to it." A letter reads: "My dear Augusta, are you here tonight? Lambert Bigelow." Pearl says: "She is not here, but is almost always with you."

An anonymous request to the writer's spirit guides, to say why she had been brought to Onset, was answered: "You were brought here to build up your physical forces and concentrate the spirit forces around you."

Now, Mr. Editor, we lay before your readers these tests as demonstrated facts,—the audience being a promiscuous one numbering 110. The paper slips referred to were distributed to investigators and strangers, and the answers came readily and in every case correct, as far as questions would call out, to our mind the most marvelous proof of spirit presence and their ability to express themselves through the organism of Mr. Powell, the medium.

Such proofs as these ought not to go unnoticed, especially as there is such a demand for positive proof of spirit return.

The audience expressed their appreciation of the readings by a most hearty and unanimous vote of thanks.

[From the *Golden Gate*.]

## PROFESSOR WALLACE'S SEANCE WITH FRED EVANS.

The most remarkable seance for independent slate-writing we ever witnessed occurred on Friday morning, May 27th, in presence of the eminent scientist, Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, his brother, Mr. John Wallace, of Stockton, Dr. David Wooster, one of our leading physicians and a member of the Academy of Sciences, and the writer,—four persons in all besides the medium, Mr. Fred Evans.

We arranged for this seance with Prof. Wallace, to come off at 9 o'clock in the morning of the day mentioned, at the residence of Mr. Evans. It was fully half past nine when we reached the residence, at 1244 Mission Street, where we were pleasantly received by Mr. Evans, and conducted to the seance room, which is a small front room directly over the hallway. The morning sunlight was streaming in at the window, and the room was as light as noonday.

Mr. Evans took a seat at a table with his back to the window. Prof. Wallace and his brother sat at the opposite side of the table, Dr. Wooster sat behind the Professor, and the writer behind and a little to the right of Mr. John Wallace, the object being to give the brothers the fullest possible benefit of the seance.

A pair of medium size folding school slates, brought by John Wallace, who had never witnessed any experiments in psychography before, was placed upon the table, together with two pairs of other slates, and, a few minutes later, a single slate, with cross lines thereon to indicate that the colored writing usually produced in this experiment is written over the cross, was placed upon the table. The slates were all thoroughly cleaned and examined by the brothers, and were, from first to last, directly under their hands and sight.

Without giving the experiments in the order in which they were produced, or even reproducing the numerous messages written (as they were mostly of a private or unimportant character), we will speak more especially of the *manner* of their production.

As we have frequently described in these columns, the messages through this medium are always given under what may be regarded as absolute test conditions. All being done in the light

and above board, with the slates in the hands of the investigator, there is not the slightest suggestion or possibility of deception. And such was the case in this instance.

The influences worked readily, and in a few minutes several messages were written in the ordinary way, to the delight of Prof. Wallace, who expressed his admiration of the prompt and perfectly fair manner in which they were produced.

The Professor then inquired of the medium if writing could be produced upon paper placed between the slates, when he was requested by the spirit control to tear off six sheets from a common writing pad of white paper at hand and place them between a pair of slates, which he did. In a few minutes we were assured by the medium that the forces were at work upon the paper, and soon it was found that upon each of five of the slips of paper was a finely executed crayon sketch of a prominent Spiritualist passed to spirit life, representing them as they appeared in earth life, viz., D. D. Home, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. Robert Hare, Jonathan Pierpont, Mrs. S. F. Breed, and upon one slip an unknown spirit picture not as well done as the others.

It is a significant fact that these five sketches named were improved copies of pictures taken upon the slates upon former occasions by the spirit artist Stanly St. Clair through Mr. Evans's mediumship, and who also drew upon a slate, at this seance, the picture of Father Pierpont, which we reproduce upon our first page. (The artist produced this picture at our recent reporters' seance at Los Angeles, and it was retained by one of the reporters present.) And yet it was seen that the crayon sketch of the latter was not an exact copy of the slate picture produced at this seance. If it is of the former picture, we have no means of knowing. They were all, with the exception of the spirit picture referred to above, pronounced by Prof. Wallace to be artistic and meritorious sketches.

Perhaps the most remarkable test given at this seance was the writing in five colors, by the medium's control, produced on the under side of the slate with the cross, the writing appearing *over* the white lines. The colors used by the spirit in this experiment are remarkably brilliant. In fact, it is the best sample of colored writing we have yet seen through this medium. The message reads as follows: —

DEAR FRIENDS:—I am pleased to meet you all here, and to you, Prof. Wallace, I must express my deep admiration for the noble stand you have taken in bravely advocating that which you believe to be true, namely, the truth of spirit return. Alas! too many are bound down to accept that which they do not believe in merely because it is not fashionable to doubt it. I mean orthodoxy. But the time is fast approaching when all will only be too glad to embrace a belief in Spiritualism. I must leave you now with the glad thought that I will one day welcome you all to the spirit side of life.

Spirit guide,

JOHN GRAY.

Another most remarkable experiment was given as follows: The medium placed a sheet of white paper over a slate lying upon the table, upon which slate it was seen there was no writing. He raised the slate level, touching his forehead with the edge, when in less than half a minute there was found upon the upper surface a finely written and beautiful message of one hundred and forty-seven words, signed "Elizabeth Wallace," the name of a sister of Prof. Wallace. This message must have been almost instantaneously stamped upon the slate, and yet the writing is, to all appearances, the result of the attrition of a slate pencil over the surface of the slate.

The last, and, to the scientist, perhaps the most satisfactory experiment of the seance, was the production of writing on the two inner surfaces of the folding slates brought by Mr. John Wallace. Upon one surface was a message by spirit John Gray, and upon the other a message signed "T. V. Wallace," the name of the father of Prof. Wallace. This writing was absolutely conclusive of the existence of an independent occult intelligent power capable of performing such wonders.

We will add, in conclusion, that a slate placed upon the floor contained four short messages to the writer,—one from John Gray, the others from three spirit friends, and in a *fac simile* of their familiar chirography. The number of slates written over, including the one with the picture, is eight, containing in all thirteen written messages, which, with the slate picture and six crayon sketches, we consider the most remarkable result ever obtained at a single seance with any slate-writing medium. The duration of the seance was less than one hour.

The above appears to me to be a correct account of one of the most remarkable and convincing seances I have ever attended. I have never on any occasion witnessed phenomena of so wonderful a character appear with such rapidity and in a manner so entirely free from suspicion.

ALFRED R. WALLACE.

I agree with the above remarks of my brother.

JOHN WALLACE.

I entirely agree with Prof. Wallace in his estimate of the phenomena and the perfect freedom from any suspicion of fraud in their production.

D. WOOSTER.

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### "A BETTER PLACE THAN LYNN."

HON. WARREN CHASE, Worcester, Mass.

A man who lived not far from Boston was always called in earth life a crank; he did not know or care much about the spirit world when here. Some years after he had gone to the other side a friend of mine was at a circle, and this man returned and identified himself. My friend asked him if he wanted to come back. "No," said he. "Are you in heaven?" "No, but it is a better place than Lynn." This man had never lived the highest that was within him, and could not enter the conditions of some; but, while he was conscious that he had not reached what he would like, he felt he had gone a step beyond his earth life, and had expressed himself in the same cranky way that was natural to him here.

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### BEAUTIFUL CLAIRVOYANCE.

Mr. S. Hainebach, of Cincinnati, writes us that he frequently sees his friends and ancestors, as well as many ancient spirits, come in groups to his home, and gather around him, showing by their gestures, &c., that they are actual persons, and that beautiful landscapes and brilliant lights are shown him. This gentleman is a private medium clairvoyant, seems greatly to enjoy his gift, and no doubt finds ample opportunity to exercise it.

## MAY LUNT, THE CHILD MEDIUM.

This little girl has interested a great many people at Onset by her psychometric readings. She is about seven years old. One day while sitting upon the veranda of the Association office we handed her our watch. She said: "I get the name 'George' from a spirit who comes here." This being the name of our father, who formerly carried the watch for nearly twenty years, we naturally supposed it to be him; but she described the spirit, saying: "He is as tall as that gentleman," pointing to one who is nearly six feet tall, "light complexioned, blue eyes," etc., a good description of a brother, George W. Whitlock, and one whom we should not have thought of in connection with the watch. She further stated that he died when about thirty years old. This also was correct, as were several other points.

She gave at one of the Facts meetings a reading to Dr. L. D. Tousley, of Philadelphia, in which she mentioned circumstances and articles which were recognized. She was very popular at the camp, appearing more like a young lady than like a child.

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"THE LAST APPLE."

Capt. George Paul, of Taunton, Mass., was in Jersey City during a strike. One night, after he had been asleep some time, he awoke and saw standing by the bed his friend Mr. Clark, who said: "Here is the last apple I shall ever give you," at the same time handing him a very nice greening. Capt. Paul laid it down by his side and went to sleep. The next morning he ate it, then went out on to the street, met a friend, and said to him: "Clark is dead; died last night." This afterward proved to be true; he passed away at Berkley, two hundred miles east of where Capt. Paul saw him.

Capt. Paul and Mr. Clark had long been friends. Both worked for the same company. Mr. Clark lived on a farm about three miles from his work, and often in the morning brought to Capt. Paul a nice large greening apple. Capt. Paul left home a few days before this vision, and Mr. Clark was at that time in good health.

Capt. Paul is willing to testify to this statement under oath.

## FACTS.—MISCELLANEOUS.

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### THE FACTS SEANCES AT ONSET.

Some of the most interesting seances and social convocations we have ever attended have been held at this beautiful summer home, and none more enjoyable than those of the Facts Convention, which closed July 20th. The first session of the convention was held Wednesday morning, July 27th, in the grove. Mr. Whitlock in a short speech opened the meeting, then called upon Hon. Warren Chase for remarks; instead of doing so, however, he read Col. R. G. Ingersoll's tribute to Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, which was full of salient points, and the audience enjoyed it very much indeed.

The meeting was then placed as it were in the hands of those spirits who might wish to use their mediums to express their thoughts. Several spoke in this way, making it a very pleasant one.

While the people were gathered here it was thought to be a good time for a picture, accordingly the Hacker Photo Co. prepared to take the largest one that had ever been procured at this place. It proved a success, the faces being exceeding distinct. The picture measures 22 x 18 inches.

Wednesday afternoon, at the Temple, was devoted to a spirit reception, its design being to give an opportunity for all spirits who desired to manifest. A large number were present, and many messages were given to people around the mediums wherever they were seated. Some were controlled and spoke; but at times the same disorder reigned which would have been expected had the spirits been in their physical bodies. While the meeting was received by the spirits as a compliment, it showed conclusively that they needed system and order as well as mortals; and when invited they expressed their individuality and disposition as much as in earth life. Herbert Leslie's Quartette, "We shall know as we are known," was rendered by Mrs. Whitlock, Mrs. Adams, Prof. Peck, and Mr. Withereil; Mrs. Washburn accompanist. The meeting, however, had many good points, and while not exactly what was anticipated for it, it was not without its lessons.

In the evening, before an audience of over two hundred people, Mr. Bridge gave a physical seance in a good light upon the platform of the

Temple. His hands were securely tied to a solid bench about six feet long, his legs tied together at the ankles, the ties were then sewed to his coat and pants through his underclothing, and his head fastened in an upright position. A committee selected by the audience did this work, at *Mr. Bridge's request*. Under these conditions bells, tambourine, banjo, and drum were played upon in perfect harmony with music upon the piano. A block of paper, after being examined by the audience, was placed in the cabinet, and several messages were written to persons present by what purported to be their friends in spirit life. Flowers were also thrown from the cabinet. This stage has no trap-door, and the cabinet was made by placing three parts of the stage scenery together, with a curtain in front, which made a nearly square cabinet, the back and sides being about twelve feet high, the curtain across the front about five feet, the whole being made in the presence of at least fifty persons and while the audience were coming in, all having an invitation to examine to the fullest extent.

The Seybert commission admits that similar phenomena occurred with *Mr. P. L. O. A. Keeler*, but claim that he put his hands upon the arm of the person sitting with him, then removed one to use for the production of the manifestations. This is not a new accusation, and we are not sure it has not been done; but we have had *Mr. Keeler* in our own house, and under unquestionable conditions, sitting between two persons with both his hands held by them, this making fraud impossible. *Mr. A. W. S. Rothermel* was also before the Seybert commission, and they admit in his case similar phenomena, but claim that the strings around his wrists were cut, or might have been, before the manifestations took place. These are important questions, but we have repeatedly sat in *Dr. Rothermel's* seances when the hands and ties were examined after the manifestations and found to be intact. On one occasion a lady was called to hold his hands outside the black cloth curtain, and with equally good results.

At this Facts entertainment *Mrs. Mary Eddy Huntoon* gave a physical seance similar to those above mentioned, and in the cabinet used by *Mr. Bridge*. A committee of two, chosen by the audience, sat with her. It was a perfect success, and the committee pronounced themselves satisfied that she did not do it. This class of mediumship is so common and so well demonstrated that, to the average investigator in spiritualistic phenomena, it has not only become a positive fact, but little attention is paid to it by them.

*Mr. Whitlock* spoke in very decided terms of his opinion, that all mediums should make their conditions beyond question, so that every person would know they were honest; select their own sitters, that harmony on both sides should be secured.

After the physical seances, *Dr. J. V. Mansfield* made a few pleasant re-



marks, and consented to try to answer a sealed letter upon the platform. This he did to the delight of the whole audience. Dr. Mack, of London, Eng., said he had written it that afternoon and that no person knew of its contents. We have been present several times when Dr. Mansfield has answered in a similar manner sealed letters, to the entire satisfaction of the audience. His wonderful powers seem to have lost nothing, although nearly forty years have elapsed since he wrote his first answer.

The fire test seance was next in order. A common kerosene lamp, a pitcher of water, soap, and towel were placed upon the platform, and Mr. Louis F. Jones, controlled by a foreign spirit, exhibited his hands to a committee appointed by the audience, after which he washed thoroughly and was again examined. His control then handled the hot chimney, holding his hands over the top and in the flame when the chimney was removed. He also held the chimney against his cheek two minutes and ten seconds, while the lamp was burning at full height. Mr. Jones is a promising young medium, and his drawings under spirit control are beautifully executed.

During the evening Prof. Peck sang "The letter that never came" in a very pleasing manner, and was enthusiastically encored. Mrs. J. Q. A. Whitemore sang "Waiting" finely, her articulation being especially good; her daughter accompanying her upon the piano. Herbert Leslie's "When the mists have cleared away" was well rendered by the quartette of the afternoon; Mr. Goodrich accompanist.

Thursday morning the meeting was again held in the grove, and was similar in character to that of Wednesday, and was, we believe, instructive.

On Thursday afternoon, July 28th, the Facts Convention was again held in the Temple. A square space was left in the centre of the hall, and most of the mediums were seated on the front seats. Mrs. Mears first gave psychometric readings, followed by Mrs. W. A. Rich, who gave some excellent tests under control of Dewdrop. Next, May Lunt, the charming little psychometrist of eight years gave readings; she certainly has a wonderful gift in this direction. She interested everybody, and nearly all were acknowledged to be correct. Then followed Mrs. Pennell, under control of Prairie Flower, who gave, as usual, some fine tests.

Prof. J. W. Cadwell then illustrated the power of spirits, by mesmerizing some of those present, at the same time making very instructive remarks upon the analogy between spirit control and that of the mesmerist. The Professor is certainly doing a grand work for humanity, in teaching his audiences in these things.

While this was going on Mrs. Whitlock, who was seated on the front row between Mrs. William S. Butler and her husband, was entranced.

Mrs. Butler said to Mr. Whitlock: "That spirit is Dr. Sunderland; you see if it is not." As soon as Prof. Cadwell had finished speaking the spirit, standing, made a most eloquent speech, in which he gave his name as Leroy Sunderland, and said: "I have mesmerized this brain, and while I am controlling, the medium will leave her body and visit other places, and when she returns she will be able to tell what she has seen." He complimented Prof. Cadwell and made some very instructive remarks, after which he left the medium. On being asked where she had been and what she had seen, Mrs. Whitlock said she first felt herself going out with a velocity greater than that of any express train on which she had travelled. She felt the connection with the body even after she seemed to be a great distance from it. She could look back and see everybody that was present in the hall, yet each one looked different from what they usually appear. The true and hidden characteristics were the individualities, and not the personal appearances. She seemed to pass over a long road that for quite a distance was barren of all vegetation, then green grass and flowers; she seemed to stop in a green field, where everything was beautiful; she passed through what seemed like vapory clouds, as near as she could explain it; she met friends who, while they were individual, seemed each to partake of the other, and emanating from each in a degree was a brightness that no language can picture or portray. She seemed to be one with them, yet so connected with material that she could not enter into the pleasures and work that each one seemed anxious to do for others and for their own advancement. She said there were many things that should not be spoken of, they were sacred to her, and to her alone belonged the experience, which was a happy one. She was so much overcome she could hardly relate it, and was very much exhausted, but soon recovered. This was a most impressive and interesting phenomenon.

In the evening the annual social, literary, and musical convocation took place, at which the Williams Bell Ringers gave selections upon their bells and crystal chimes, all being highly appreciated. Miss Marguerette Bragdon, the accomplished vocalist as well as actress, favored the company with two selections. Mrs. Whittemore sang finely two selections, accompanied by her daughter upon the piano. Mr. Foster, a young man of musical ability seldom equalled, played a violin solo, which called out a hearty applause. Prof. George LeClair sang "The Bridge," and, in response to an encore, "Rocked in the cradle of the deep." Mrs. Carrie E. S. Twing recited her poem, "Black Sheep," and made a few characteristic remarks, which were well received.

A little after nine o'clock the promenade concert was commenced, and old and young enjoyed dancing.

These meetings have been largely attended by a very intelligent class of

people, whose aim seems to have been to know more of the true science of spirit communion,—the tendency of today being, in too many cases, to ignore the scientific basis, and cast reflections upon mediumship, the one central structure on which everything must rest, or not at all. When this position is taken (as it has been by the church) there is nothing left but faith, good deeds, and superstition. We do not wish to undervalue spirituality, but to call attention to the importance of the phenomena, which must ever stand as the foundation of spiritual communion. The laws which control all these wonderful cases are, and must ever be, of the greatest importance. Shall we live after the death of the physical body? is the important question. If so, where and under what conditions? Scientific men are, on all sides, making an effort in their own way to demonstrate that these are only of materialistic origin, or from organisms brought into peculiar conditions by disease and social weakness. These competent, self-appointed investigators are not acquainted with even the A B C of these phenomena, to say nothing of the cause of or under what conditions they may be demanded. We do not wish to seem in the least egotistical, nor ironical, when we say that a hundred "Seybert" commissions would be useless to the world of science if they were composed of men who knew as little of other sciences as these appear to of the proper methods to be adopted in the investigation of the phenomena of modern Spiritualism.

All scientific investigation requires a knowledge of laws and conditions involved, and a man ignorant of such conditions would be of little value to science, which boasts that it is founded on facts. All scientific investigators should be unbiased and free from prejudice, and this is what we claim for these phenomena. The wonder is that a man of Mr. Seybert's experience should have left \$60,000 to be expended in the investigation of a subject so subtle, and by a class of men known as scientific, but who know nothing of these phenomena, and whose prejudices are against them. As well might you appoint any person ignorant of astronomy to investigate that subject. Education and experience are needed before becoming a teacher in any branch of study.

We have no unkind or personal feeling in this matter, but the report of the Seybert commission so thoroughly shows the incompetency of the committee that any person acquainted with the subject cannot help feeling how incomplete it must be with such methods. The ordinary student of psychological laws ought, without any experience with mediums, to know that the best results could not follow such conditions. We do not question their experiments nor their veracity, only their ability to get the best phenomena.

Gold is scarce, and the experienced miner passes rapidly over the dirt which surrounds it; so the intelligent investigator of modern Spiritualism

sees much that he does not understand, and which he may consider fraud, but when he witnesses a phenomenon that is beyond question he prizes it as does the miner his gold. The question is, how may the best be obtained? We say emphatically, not by the *handcuff system*, nor any other by which the psychological power against the medium is greater than their band can withstand.

Henry Slade in this report is denounced as a trickster, and it is not the first time, as his experiences in London, Canada, and Virginia show; but what about the thousands of cases where he has given undoubted evidence of his extraordinary powers, some of them before men whose reputation for scientific and literary ability stands as high as any of the members of this commission. In our own case we have on two occasions, with Dr. Slade, had writing on our own slates, while sitting upon them, and when he was not within reach of them.

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At a private sitting with Miss J. M. Grant a few days since, she described very minutely circumstances, physical conditions, and business matters of a personal character, which were especially interesting, and we look upon her as one of the best mediums for private sittings.

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[From the *Truth Seeker*, June 11th.]

#### MR. BEECHER'S SUCCESSOR.

The older members of Plymouth Church believe that Beecher's successor should be one who will stick to the theology of the dead pastor. At a business meeting held last week Mr. Thomas G. Shearman, a trustee, said: "It would be a sorry thing for us to seek the fellowship of those who are willing to fellowship with us now that he has gone. We should never take a step toward asking anyone to condone our offence of having that greatest and best man for our pastor. We have also a duty in holding up a light here to the world. It would be our eternal disgrace to be led into the deplorable error of calling as a pastor one who should deem it his duty to rectify Mr. Beecher's errors and call us back to the theology of Calvin. We do n't want to go back with Jonah into the belly of any sea-dog. We want no man here, however eloquent or pious, who represents ideas not of the school of Mr. Beecher, the school of which he was the leader and light. We want the next man to hold up that light, and to sustain and rejoice in the church founded and built up under the theology of Mr. Beecher, which we have found good enough to live by and to die by. I trust we shall call a man as our pastor who will be faithful in preaching the gospel of love and not of fear.

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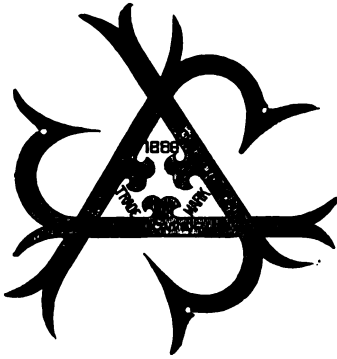
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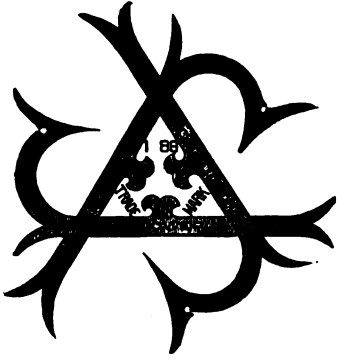
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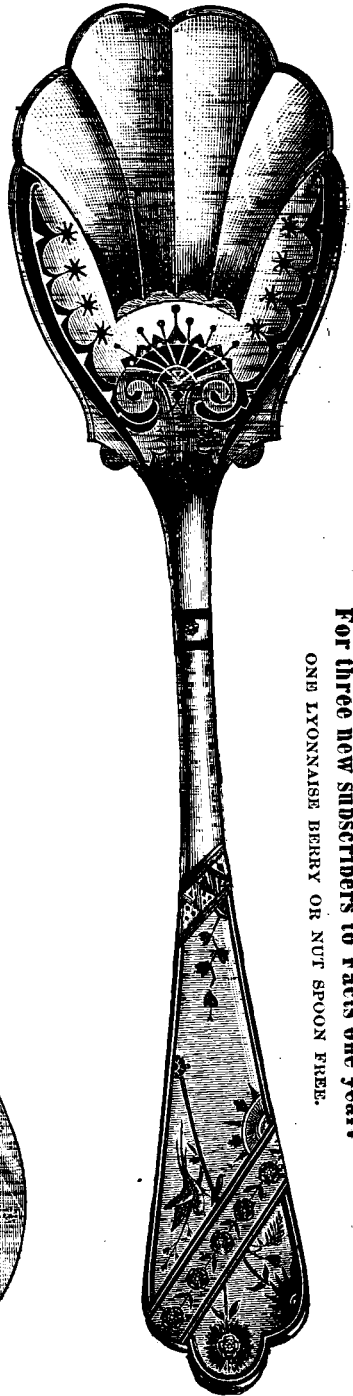
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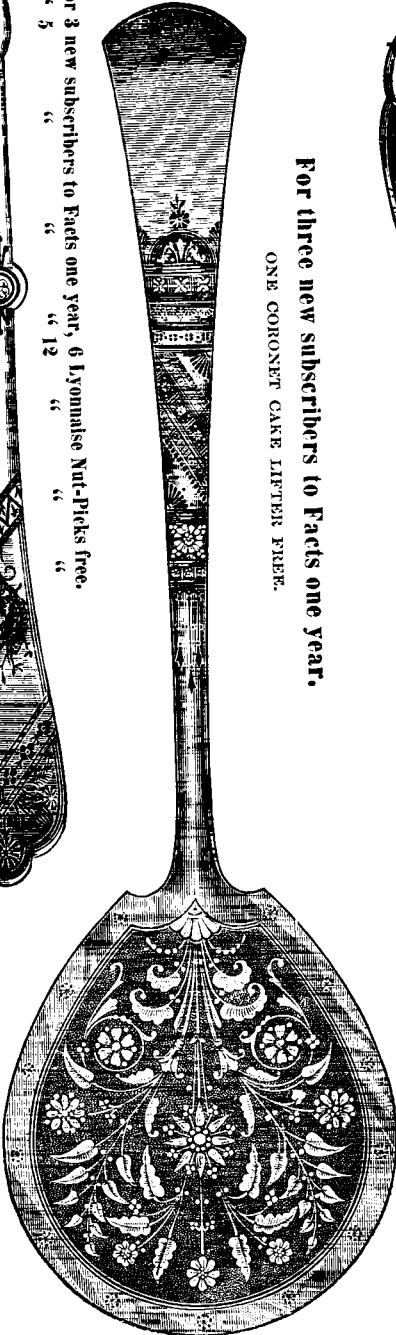
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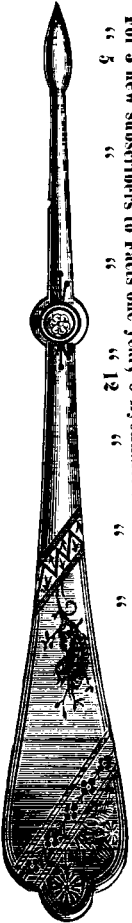
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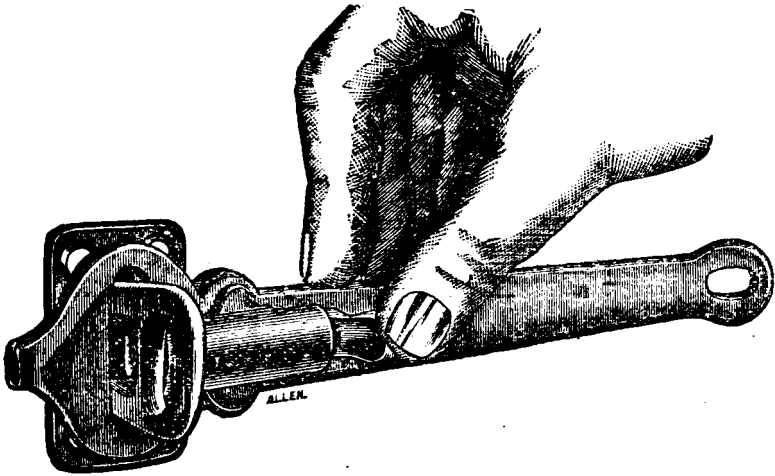
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