

TELEGRAPH

"THE AGITATION OF THOUGHT IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM."

VOL. IV.—NO. 1.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

WHOLE NO. 157.

MIRACLES IN NEW ORLEANS

Under the above caption we published in our issue of March 13th the translation of a French letter written by M^{rs}. JANEZ BARTHOLOMEW of New Orleans. It treated some most interesting facts relative to the sufferings and wonderful appearance of bodies, spirits, mediums, etc., in the hands of a young person who declared that Spirits brought them to her. Since the publication of the first statement, we HAVE RECEIVED another communication from M^{rs}. Bartholome on the same subject, of which the following is a translation. It can not fail to be interesting to your readers. All who are conversant with our correspondents will perceive the truth of our statements.

Since writing my letter of March 8th, published in the *TRACER* of the 31st, we have made some progress in clearing up that obscurity which environs us on all hands. I will proceed, first to describe the complicated scene which passed under my eyes last Friday. Let us go back to the time of the occurrence.

The sun had not yet gone down. There were only three of us, including the young girl. Madam S—— magnetized the latter, and asked her, when she saw that she was asleep, whether we would receive any books during the sitting that evening. "I do not know; they are not there," answered the child. Madam S—— continued, "If they still must have money, I will give them some." Silence for some moments ensued; then the sleeper said they demanded some; and three small pieces of money were given her, which she put in her pocket (where there were already two ear-rings with which she had been playing in the morning, for she is very child-like, not appearing to be more than twelve years old, though she is said to be fourteen, but without this being known. I have already said that she is an orphan).

A few moments afterward the girl, still asleep, arose and passed into the adjoining room. We followed and watched her. Seated at a distance from us, she spoke in a suppressed voice, but energetically and with gesticulations. "No, no, I will not; it is wrong." Then she left her seat, and went and took one on the opposite side of the room, where she continued the same pantomime and discourse, adding, "You are a thief; you are all the time stealing." Previously the girl, while in the abnormal state, had, as it could not be doubted, committed certain acts which would have been very reprehensible if it could have been proved that they were done voluntarily on her part. I reserve these to be spoken of hereafter lest this digression should become too lengthy. Here is one, however, which it seems to be necessary to mention in this place. One morning, having just arisen from her bed and being fully awake, the girl had said, "I have been all night with a half-dollar (demi-paastre) and I ought to have it." Madam S—— then examined her closet and found such a coin missing. Doubtless the child had risen during the night and committed in her sleep this petit larceny, of which the remembrance remained like that of a dream. She and Madam S—— slept in the same room. Madam S—— then said to her, "So, so! it is they who have taken from me that half-dollar, and they must restore it to me." Then in an instant the girl fell into a kind of trance, and concealing with care the movements of her hands, she seemed to take from her shoe, or perhaps from her stocking (she sometimes slept with her stockings on), the reclaimed half-dollar, and handed it back to Madam S—— without any more ceremony. The reader will see by this, and by what we shall say hereafter, that we were on our guard respecting what the girl was capable of doing, whether voluntarily or seemingly under foreign influence. We will now return from this digression.

Seeing then that the child was always resisting a mysterious temptation which might have caused bigots to say that we were in the presence of the devil, Madam S—— again said to her, "If it is me they wish to rob, I permit them, provided they rob only me, and take from me nothing but money." The sleeper still seemed to resist, but it soon became evident that she yielded. She passed into the room of Madam S——, which was also hers, and went toward the closet, which she opened, and then pulled out a drawer, among the diverse contents of which she searched pretty thoroughly without finding the coveted object. She took a *porte-monnaie*, but could not open it. Madam S—— then dropped a half-dollar against the hand of the seeker, which she immediately seized, but without appearing to notice what was passing before and around her; neither the fall of the money nor our close proximity to her seemed to excite her attention. Finding nothing more to which she took a fancy, or perhaps being satisfied (for afterward appeared that she had also stolen a brooch) she passed in the drawer, closed the closet, went into another room, and lay down her whole length under a bed with her nose against the wall. I forgot to say that during her visit to the closet she spoke in an undertone, and turned her head to one side as if she were dreaming and taking care not to be disturbed. She even cautioned her invisible instigator [feminine] not to make any noise. We were, however, almost touching her, but it was evident that our presence did not annoy her.

She remained under the bed eight or ten minutes in continued conversation with her invisible comrade. She spoke in a tone very natural, and as if she had been far from the ears and eyes of all observers. Her most frequently repeated and important sayings were, "You take too much at a time, don't take all to-day; if you take the half-dollar don't take the brooch, or if you take the brooch don't take the half-dollar. It is too much; Mr. C—— (the father of Madam S—— dead about twenty years) will perceive it, and blab it out, and will scold, and he will carry it all back to-night. Don't take any more this time you can steal it." She dwelt on this latter word, of which she frequently made use during this

At the word "brooch" (*épinglette*) Madam S— suspected another theft. She ran to her closet, and sought in vain a brooch which she knew she put there. It was an object on which she set a high value, as it had been given to her. It was a simple leaf in gold, of which this is the approximate form — and the accurate size. It will be useful farther on that the reader should know its dimensions.*

Madam S—— sought in vain that object. The somnambulist must have taken it without our knowledge. The latter still under the bed, continued her monologue in these words:—
“At another time we will steal. You will tell Alice and E—— (two Spirits related to the family of Mr. L——, who lived in the same house with us, and who during their lifetime had a great love of money) to come, and we will steal also at Mr. L——’s. He has a box which is complete (or full, *pleine*), and sometimes is in halves (*à moitié*). It is kept locked, but he sometimes forgets the key. Let us go and see.”

After saying these words the somnambulist came forth from her hiding-place and went into the room of Mr. L—, and we followed her. She tried the drawers of a bureau, but could not open them. "You see it is locked, but sometimes he leaves the key, then we will come and steal."

Then retracing her steps, she came again to the room of Madam S—, we being all the while at her heels; and seeing a sick lady coming whom we had left in the first chamber, she drew back saying, "See, H—, who comes! Let us give her room to pass." She stood still, turning her back as if she dreaded to be discovered; but here also, as elsewhere, our presence did not seem to annoy her.

Finally she returned to the room where she first lost consciousness of our presence. There, approaching a table on which was lying a pack of dominoes, with which she sometimes amused herself, she called her invisible comrade saying, "Come, let us play dominoes," and she commenced playing herself for the two. I thought I would save her half the trouble, and I purposely laid down one of a wrong number. "See, one has put a five for a six. Haven't you a six? Very well, draw," and her own hand performed the office indicated. The pieces played by the somnambulist were well joined; however, when I laid down a piece in two instances, she drew back her hand without saying anything, as if she were annoyed by some obstacle that was in the way.

Pretty soon she left the table, saying, "You are a stupid girl, you don't know how to play, and you cheat." She went some steps to seat herself, thus approaching our presence, and when we were about to withdraw from her she expressed the desire to be awaked. That being done, every thing indicated her complete forgetfulness of what had occurred. Then searching in her pocket, she complained that she missed her ear-drops. That evidently was all she knew. We observed that she had not the three little pieces of money which had been given her at the commencement of the sitting, nor had she the half-dollar, nor the brooch. We sent her out upon an errand in order that we might in her absence examine all the nooks and corners where she had been. The bed was displaced, the carpet taken up, etc. Vain researches!

Night having arrived, we placed ourselves at the table as was our custom. Mr. L—— and Mr. D—— had rejoined us. We were then five in number. In a few seconds the child passed into the abnormal state, and certainly without the agency, at least voluntary, of any one of us this time. As soon as I saw her hands move, I slipped under the table, where I soon saw her hands descend and grope about as if to seize something in the air, and this motion was accompanied by the medium with these words, "Give it to me, then." But nothing was given that time, nor at any of the other sittings at which I was in like manner hidden under the table. Could I have been thus an obstacle?

Being questioned, the medium responded that the little one had a wry countenance and crooked figure; and she added that it was a little girl connected with the family of Madame S—. The latter said she recognized her as one of her cousins, dead nearly twenty years, and who at the time of her death was only twelve years old. She died with convulsions

* Our correspondent here gives a diagram of the brooch. It is in the shape of a deeply indented oak-leaf, an inch and a quarter wide at the widest part and an inch and three quarters long.

which distorted her face; she was much given to piffing, but as she was sickly they excused all her fantasies.

The medium, not having grasped any thing, arose from her seat and removed from the table, and I came forth from my hiding-place. We followed the sleeper in all her marches and countermarches; finally she went out of the room, passed through two other chambers, and entered the dining-room in order to seat herself at the common table. The table, ordinarily round, but formed of two parts, and capable of being extended by slides and by supplying additional boards in the middle, was now oval. It thus measured four feet one way and five and a half the other. One of its longer sides was about eight inches from the wall. The medium took a seat at the end of the table so as to bring the wall on her right.* She placed her hands on the table with the palms downward. There was a light burning upon the end of the table next to her, and directly in front of her, and its flame, standing at the height of about fifteen inches above the surface of the table, shrouded directly in her face. The somnambulist seemed to talk with another—with Alice perhaps—to whom she said, "Give me

me quick, before she comes." On her account the other—this
thieving Spirit—was doubtless delaying her visit. As she
pronounced these words she quickly extended her right hand
at a point between the table and the wall, about three or four
inches below the top of the table, and consequently into the
shade, and almost immediately the hand again arose with
a package, which was neither enveloped nor tied together, but
consisted of *fourteen engravings* of diverse kinds, like those
which I described in my previous letter. They measured
an average about four inches by five or six, and must have
cost at least two dollars—that is to say, more than the young
girl could have possessed at one time.

I ran to the opposite side of the table; I removed that end a little farther from the wall, and looked and passed my hand everywhere. Evidently the medium's hand had not extended to the point where the ends separate from each other by means of the grooves, and where, besides, I found nothing but dust, and the pictures were very clean. Nor were they in the least crumpled, which would certainly not have been the case if they had been until then concealed in the girl's clothes. My examination completed, I took my position, standing, directly behind the medium. The three other persons, also standing, were by the table at the left of the medium, and near her side: but in the meanwhile the medium awoke.

That which is now to be related we can certify fully, and without doubt.

All preserving our places—the medium seated and we standing—and having our eyes fixed upon the girl's hands, which had resumed their place upon the table, with the palms downward, this is what we witnessed in the *most unostentatious* manner; for every thing was done slowly in this last phase of the *séance*, during which the medium continued perfectly awake:

I said to the girl, "They have just given you those pictures but they have not returned the half-dollar which they have stolen, and they must now return it." Immediately, to the great surprise of the medium, and also somewhat to ours, he right hand slowly turned palm upward, at the same time the left arm performed an impulsive movement. These motions, though complex, were altogether analogous to those which are sometimes produced by the will of a magnetizer, expressed or not, upon an impressible person. The hand then moved to the right until it came to the edge of the table, and while the fingers were not fully extended but were immovable the

whom she was not fully extended, but were immovable, and the whole hand showed every appearance of rigidity, which, however, I abstained from verifying this time. We then saw the hand descend three or four inches into the shadow caused by the edge of the table, and that by a movement of its own which was little dependent upon the extension of the arm. This immersion of the hand into the shade only continued about four seconds, during which the hand did not stop its motion, and rose again with the same slowness, and showed us at the instant of its emergence from the darkness, the half-dollar lying in the palm, which had been continually kept upward, and to all appearance rigid, the fingers continually remaining in fixed positions. An impulsive movement then brought the arm over the table, and the hand slowly turned over, dropped the half-dollar at the foot of the chandelier. Then the hand became suddenly free, and resumed its place by the side of the left hand, which had not stirred. The medium said she had felt "as though some one had drawn her hand aside, and then dropped something heavy into it."

I again spoke and said, "That is not all; they have also taken from you fifteen cents, and they must bring them back when to! the same hand, performing the same movement and with the same slowness, returned again and threw down the three little coins by the side of the first piece!"

* Our correspondent gives a diagram of the positions, but this we are obliged to omit, and in its place we take the liberty of supplying a few words not in the original, for the purpose of making the description clear.

g. and the same slowness (doubtless to show us that we were not deceived) brought back the same brooch!

I did not think of any more objects to reclaim, and we were entertaining ourselves with these marvels when our conversation was suddenly interrupted. It would appear that Mr. (with whom the somnambulist, during the scene under the bed, had threatened the little invisible thief) was at his post and compelled a restitution: for after a short pause, nearly equal to the previous intervals, and as if we had before us a mechanical automaton, the same hand made two more excursions, such as the three preceding, with a like interval between them, and each time brought back one of the forgotten car-drops, of which the girl herself was certainly not thinking: for, agreeably surprised when she saw the first one, she exclaimed, "My car-rings!" and this was said in a tone of surprise which could not have been feigned.

This ended the *scene*. III.

Let the reader notice particularly what were our respective positions. I was standing behind, and looking over the shoulders of the medium; the three other persons were her left, also standing, and we did not lose an instant in serving the agitated hand except while it remained immersed in the shadow, and was less distinctly visible, and where the objects which were brought back to us could not be seen in the direct rays of the light fell upon them. *It is very certain* that the hand, during its immersion, did not perform any movement of its own; but we did not see the objects come to her hand *nor did we see the hands of the Spirits*.

Let it be observed, also, that these objects could not have been concealed in the child's sleeve, and if they had been they could scarcely have been got out, the sleeves being tied at the wrist-bands. Besides, they could not have been slipped down over the forearm, which only attained a slight inclination below the horizontal position. Observe, finally, that the hands in the position to which it descended to the right (between the table and the wall), touched nothing solid, and that there was no look for any thing to be hidden in, either in the table on the one hand, or in the wall on the other, and that the hands were wholly in the air.

So far, then, every thing has been related with precision but I must omit nothing which may serve to clear up the question. Here, then, is what I promised in an early part of this communication, and to confirm which time was seized.

In the first place, I discovered that the child had bought some pictures, medals, and books, though it does not seem possible that she could have commanded the sum necessary to purchase all we have seen. I will grant, then, that all the objects received at our *séances* may have been previously purchased, and one may conclude from this that the choice of these articles was the business of the medium, although it may have been influenced in this as she has been in many other ways. The character of those objects, then, proves nothing: but let us proceed further.

Having told the child what I knew of her acts and motives and having, while passing, even shown her the store where she had made her purchases, she denied it; but perhaps this she was also subject to a foreign influence, by which she seems to have been controlled on the next morning, when, instead of going directly to school, she went and bought something at the same store. She subsequently admitted that the accusation was just, but could only explain by saying, "I could not help it."

Coming together one night before the hour fixed for meeting, we wished to search her, as was our custom, and the persons [feminine] attempted to proceed to that task; but the sleeper manifested great opposition. She rolled upon the floor, and rendered the operation quite difficult. It was insisted upon, but it was believed that she had a book concealed in her clothes, and one was found in them some moments after on the sofa where she had just laid down.

I testify, however, that in these searching operations (*visites de douanier*) we have often enough had cause to be satisfied; nevertheless, we should not neglect those precautions, which are always useful in experiments. I was put on my guard one day by the bookseller, who informed me that the girl had bought another book (turning again out of her path as she was going to school). It was on the same day that she was to be taken to a house where she had not been before. I did not fail to couse her to be searched before her departure; but made a vigorous opposition, and threw herself into an arm-chair where the book was soon found, and which she came out while she remained seated, but which she probably dropped out of her pocket. What she would have afterward done with this book under the severe examination at the commencement of the *stance*, at the other house (the pockets never being gotten in such cases), is what I would much like to know, but do not think it should be doubted that she was impressed with respect to this search, as she had always laughingly submitted to similar examinations at all the houses to which we had conducted her. Perhaps, then, some invisible hand would have removed from her all causes of embarrassment, and it would

16 that her pocket was simply intended to serve as a means of
conveyance between the two houses.

However this may be, there is here a *mélange* which is difficult to unravel, but on which we may hope that light will yet be thrown, for progress has thus far made in the development of established facts of this kind. As for the rest, that which constitutes the object of this letter, is the relation of our currencies altogether beyond the sphere of this incertitude. They are precisely as I have reported them.

UR. Votre humble serviteur, JOS. BARTHEY.
DE. NEW ORLEANS, LA., April 6, 1855.

DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

In the eleventh chapter of Genesis, verses 6, 7, and 9, it is written: "And the Lord said, Behold the people is one, at they all have one language." And in verse 7th: "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they shall not understand one another's speech." And in verse 9th: "Therefore is the name of it called Babel, because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth."

In the second chapter of Acts, verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 it is written: "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the *Holy Ghost*, and began to speak with *other tongues*, as the *Spirit* gave them utterance. And there abode dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was uttered abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that each man heard them speak in their own language. And they were all amazed, and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold these are not all these which speak Galilee? And how hear they every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"

This solution of the origin of the diversity of languages being in itself an act of supernatural power, and a miracle confirmed by the Spiritual Manifestations of the present age, Mediums are now made to speak and write in languages altogether unknown to themselves; and oftentimes the same medium in a number of different languages altogether unknown by himself. The same mode was probably adopted by the Deity in producing a diversity of languages at the Tower of Babel and at Jerusalem as is now, by the Spiritual Manifestations. They were probably produced by acting upon the people as mediums, either directly himself or through the agency of "ministering Spirits," in the same way as the same kind of phenomena are now produced by Spirits acting upon mediums, and by which the language of these mediums in Scripture language, is "confounded," and they are made to speak in "unknown tongues."

It has always been a matter of great difficulty, and it must be said of impossibility, to account for the multiplicity of languages as they now exist, and for so long a period have existed, except upon the supposition that they had their origin in some supernatural act of power, or, in other words, a miracle. If the supposition that they were the work of man and his invention, their multiplicity, their dissimilarity, and their systematic construction oppose insuperable objections. If languages were merely the work of human invention, and their boundaries were enlarged gradually, as the human mind became improved, human wants multiplied, and the stock of ideas requiring appropriate words to express them became enlarged, then would, I conceive, have been as chaotic and heterogeneous it is possible to imagine—without plan or system. For every supposition of such an origin precludes the possibility of anything like system. Words being invented at the moment to express a particular idea could not, from the nature of the case, admit of being formed with reference to any system of language, especially such philosophical ones as these now existing. They would be invented from the urgency of the occasion to express a particular want, which it was found necessary immediately to communicate, and any form of expression which should first occur to the mind for the purpose would probably be adopted. Its adaptation to a regularly contrived system of language would never enter the head of the person first using it, because from the infancy of his intellectual powers, he could not have any conception of such a system, and there could not by the supposition be any language existing to which to adapt it. Language formed in this way, by gradual additions as the necessity of them arose, would be as irregular, as wanting in method and order, as the different paths which the first settlers of a country should strike out for themselves, and for the same reason, the necessity of immediate accommodation, without reference to, or even thought of, populous towns arising in future, requiring regular streets, laid out upon a systematic plan. Thus the case of language, as well as in the latter case, would be something that could not even be foreseen, and certainly provided against. Language, then, originating in this way, growing gradually, would necessarily become in time an immense mass of words, perfectly unmanageable, and such would require the labor of a century to learn. For there would be no connection or relation between its parts. As much for languages upon the supposition that they were originally the work of man.

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A few moments afterward the girl, still asleep, arose and passed into the adjoining room. We followed and watched her. Seated at a distance from us, she spoke in a suppressed voice, but energetically and with gesticulations. "No, no, I will not; it is wrong." Then she left her seat, and went and took one on the opposite side of the room, where she continued the same pantomime and discourse, adding, "You are a thief; you are all the time stealing." Previously the girl, while in the abnormal state, had, as it could not be doubted, committed certain acts which would have been very reprehensible if it could have been proved that they were done voluntarily on her part. I reserve these to be spoken of hereafter lest this digression should become too lengthy; here is one, however, which it seems to be necessary to mention in this place. One morning, having just arisen from her bed and being fully awake, the girl had said, "I have been all night with a half-dollar (denier-pastre) and I ought to have it." Madam S—— then examined her closet and found such a coin missing. Doubtless the child had risen during the night and committed in her sleep this petit larceny, of which the remembrance remained like that of a dream. She and Madam S—— slept in the same room. Madam S—— then said to her, "So, so! it is they who have taken from me that half-dollar, and they must restore it to me." Then in an instant the girl fell into a kind of trance, and concealing with care the movements of her hands, she seemed to take from her shoe, or perhaps from her stocking (she sometimes slept with her stockings on), the reclaimed half-dollar, and handed it back to Madam S—— without any more ceremony. The reader will see by this, and by what we shall say hereafter, that we were on our guard respecting what the girl was capable of doing, whether voluntarily or seemingly under foreign influence. We will now return from this digression.

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Pretty soon she left the table, saying, "You are a stupid girl, you don't know how to play, and you cheat." She went some steps to seat herself, thus approaching our presence, and when we were about to withdraw from her she expressed the desire to be awaked. That being done, every thing indicated her complete forgetfulness of what had occurred. Then searching in her pocket, she complained that she missed her car-drops. That evidently was all she knew. We observed that she had not the three little pieces of money which had been given her at the commencement of the sitting, nor had she the half-dollar, nor the brooch. We sent her out upon an errand in order that we might in her absence examine all the nooks and corners where she had been. The bed was displaced, the carpet taken up, etc. Vain researches!

11.

Night having arrived, we placed ourselves at the table as was our custom. Mr. L—— and Mr. D—— had rejoined us. We were then five in number. In a few seconds the child passed into the abnormal state, and certainly without the agency, at least voluntary, of any one of us this time. As soon as I saw her hands move, I slipped under the table, where I soon saw her hands descend and grope about as if to seize something in the air, and this motion was accompanied by the medium with these words, "Give it to me, then." But nothing was given that time, nor at any of the other sittings at which I was in like manner hidden under the table. Could I have been thus an obstacle?

Being questioned, the medium responded that the little thief had a wry countenance and crooked figure; and she added that it was a little girl connected with the family of Madam S—. The latter said she recognized her as one of her cousins, dead nearly twenty years, and who at the time of her decease was twelve years old. She died with convulsions.

* Our correspondent here gives a diagram of the brooch. It is in the shape of a deeply indented oak-leaf, an inch and a-quarter wide at the widest part and an inch and three quarters long.

which distorted her face; she was much given to pilfering but as she was sickly they excused all her fantasies.

The medium, not having grasped any thing, arose from her seat and removed from the table, and I came forth from my hiding-place. We followed the sleeper in all her marches and countermarches; finally she went out of the room, passed through two other chambers, and entered the dining-room in order to seat herself at the common table. The table, ordinarily round, but formed of two parts, and capable of being extended by slides and by supplying additional boards in the middle, was now oval. It thus measured four feet one way and five and a half the other. One of its longer sides was about eight inches from the wall. The medium took a seat at the end of the table so as to bring the wall on her right.* She placed her hands on the table with the palms downward. There was a light burning upon the end of the table next to her, and directly in front of her, and its flame, standing at the height of about fifteen inches above the surface of the table, shone directly in her face. The somnambulist seemed to talk with another—with Alice perhaps—to whom she said, "Give it to me quick, before she comes." On her account the other—the thieving Spirit—was doubtless delaying her visit. As she pronounced these words she quickly extended her right hand at a point between the table and the wall, about three or four inches below the top of the table, and consequently into the shade, and almost immediately the hand again arose with a package, which was neither enveloped nor tied together, but consisted of fourteen engravings of diverse kinds, like those which I described in my previous letter. They measured on an average about four inches by five or six, and must have cost at least two dollars—that is to say, more than the young girl could have possessed at one time.

I ran to the opposite side of the table; I removed that end a little farther from the wall, and looked and passed my hand everywhere. Evidently the medium's hand had not extended to the point where the ends separate from each other by means of the grooves, and where, besides, I found nothing but dust, and the pictures were very clean. Nor were they in the least crumpled, which would certainly not have been the case if they had been until then concealed in the girl's clothes. My examination completed, I took my position, standing, directly behind the medium. The three other persons, also standing, were by the table at the left of the medium, and near her side; but in the meanwhile the medium swote

That which is now to be related we can certify fully, and without doubt.

All preserving our places—the medium seated and we standing—and having our eyes fixed upon the girl's hands, which had resumed their place upon the table, with the palms downward, this is what we witnessed in the most *unmistakable* manner; for every thing was done slowly in this last phase of the *séance*, during which the medium continued perfectly awake:

I said to the girl, "They have just given you those pictures, but they have not returned the half-dollar which they have stolen, and they must now return it." Immediately, to the great surprise of the medium, and also somewhat to ours, her right hand slowly turned palm upward, at the same time that her arm performed an impulsive movement. These motions, though complex, were altogether analogous to those which are sometimes produced by the will of a magnetizer, expressed or not, upon an impressible person. The hand then moved to the right until it came to the edge of the table, and while the fingers were not fully extended, but were immovable, the whole hand showed every appearance of rigidity, which, however, I abstained from verifying this time. We then saw the hand descend three or four inches into the shadow caused by the edge of the table, and that by a movement of its own which was little dependent upon the extension of the arm. This immersion of the hand into the shade only continued about four seconds, during which the hand did not stop its motion, and rose again with the same slowness, and showed us, at the instant of its emersion from the darkness, the half-dollar lying in the palm, which had been continually kept upward, and to all appearance rigid, the fingers continually remaining in fixed positions. An impulsive movement then brought the arm over the table, and the hand slowly turning over, dropped the half-dollar at the foot of the chandelier. Then the hand became suddenly free, and resumed its place by the side of the left hand, which had not stirred. The medium said she had felt "as though some one had drawn her hand aside, and then dropped something heavy into it."

I again spoke and said, "That is not all; they have also taken from you fifteen cents, and they must bring them back," when lo! the same band, performing the same movements, and with the same slowness, returned again and threw down the three little coins by the side of the first piece!

* Our correspondent gives a diagram of the positions, but this we are obliged to omit, and in its place we take the liberty of supplying a few words not in the original, for the purpose of making the description clear.

and the same slowness (doubtless to show us that we were not deceived) brought back the same brooch'

I did not think of any more objects to reclaim, and we were entertaining ourselves with these marvels when our conversation was suddenly interrupted. It would appear that Mr. (with whom the somnambulist, during the scene under the bed, had threatened the little invisible thief) was at his post and compelled a restitution; for after a short pause, nearly equal to the previous intervals, and as if we had before us a mechanical automaton, the same hand made two more excursions, such as the three preceding, with a like interval between them, and each time brought back one of the forgotten ear-drops, of which the girl herself was certainly not thinking; for, agreeably surprised when she saw the first one, she exclaimed, "My ear-rings!" and this was said in a tone of surprise which could not have been feigned.

This ended the *siance*

Let the reader notice particularly what were our respective positions. I was standing behind, and looking over the shoulders of the medium; the three other persons were on her left, also standing, and we did not lose an instant in observing the agitated hand except while it remained immersed in the shadow, and was less distinctly visible, and where the objects which were brought back to us could not be seen until the direct rays of the light fell upon them. *It is very certain* that the hand, during its immersion, did not perform any movement of its own; but we did not see the objects come to her hands, nor did we see the hands of the Spirits.

Let it be observed, also, that these objects could not have been concealed in the child's sleeve, and if they had been they could scarcely have been got out, the sleeves being tight at the wrist-bands. Besides, they could not have been slipped down over the forearm, which only attained a slight inclination below the horizontal position. Observe, finally, that the hands in the position to which it descended to the right (between the table and the wall), touched nothing solid, and that there was no room for any thing to be hidden in, either in the table on the one hand, or in the wall on the other, and that *the hands were wholly in the air*.

So far, then, every thing has been related with precision but I must omit nothing which may serve to clear up the question. Here, then, is what I promised in an early part of this communication, and to confirm which time was required.

In the first place, I discovered that the child had bought some pictures, medals, and books, though it does not seem possible that she could have commanded the sum necessary to purchase all we have seen. I will grant, then, that all the objects received at our *stances* may have been previously purchased, and one may conclude from this that the choice of these articles was the business of the medium, although she may have been influenced in this as she has been in many other ways. The character of those objects, then, prove nothing; but let us proceed further.

Having told the child what I knew of her acts and emotions and having, while passing, even shown her the store where she had made her purchases, she denied it; but perhaps it this she was also subject to a foreign influence, by which she seems to have been controlled on the next morning, when, instead of going directly to school, she went and bought some thing at the same store. She subsequently admitted that my accusation was just, but could only explain by saying, "I could not help it."

Coming together one night before the hour fixed for our meeting, we wished to search her, as was our custom, and two persons [feminine] attempted to proceed to that task; but the sleeper manifested great opposition. She rolled upon the floor, and rendered the operation quite difficult. It was not insisted upon, but it was believed that she had a book concealed in her clothes, and one was found in them some moments after on the sofa where she had just laid down.

I testify, however, that in these searching operations (*visites de donateur*) we have often enough had cause to be satisfied. Nevertheless, we should not neglect those precautions, which are always useful in experiments. I was put on my guard one day by the bookseller, who informed me that the girl had bought another book (turning again out of her path as she was going to school). It was on the same day that she was to be taken to a house where she had not been before. I did not fail to cause her to be searched before her departure; but she made a vigorous opposition, and threw herself into an attitude

chair where the book was soon found, and which she concealed while she remained seated, but which she probably dropped out of her pocket. What she would have afterward done with this book under the severe examination at the commencement of the *absence*, at the other house (the pockets never being forgotten in such cases), is what I would much like to know. I do not think it should be doubted that she was impressed in respect to this search, as she had always laughingly submitted to similar examinations at all the houses to which we had conducted her. Perhaps, then, some invisible hand would have removed from her all causes of embarrassment, and it may be

that her pocket was simply intended to serve as a means of conveyance between the two houses.

However this may be, there is here a *mélange* which is difficult to unravel, but on which we may hope that light will yet be thrown; for progress has thus far made in the development of established facts of this kind. As for the rest, which constitutes the object of this letter, is the relation of currencies altogether beyond the sphere of this incertitude. They are merely as I have suggested them.

Votre humble serviteur, JOS. BARNETT.
 NEW ORLEANS, La, April 5, 1865.

DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

In the eleventh chapter of Genesis, verses 6, 7, and 9, it is written: "And the Lord said, Behold the people is one, and they all have one language." And in verse 10: "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they shall not understand one another's speech." And in verse 11: "Therefore is the name of it called Babel, because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth."

In the second chapter of Acts, verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, it is written: "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with psalms, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And these continued dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that they heard them speak in their own language. And they were all amazed, and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, these are all that speak Galilean. And how hear we them speak in our own tongue, whereas they are Galileans?"

This solution of the origin of the diversity of languages being in itself an act of supernatural power, and a miracle confirmed by the Spiritual Manifestations of the present day, Mediums are now made to speak and write in languages altogether unknown to themselves; and oftentimes the same medium in a number of different languages altogether unknown by himself. The same mode was probably adopted by the Deity in producing a diversity of languages at the Tower of Babel and at Jerusalem as is now, by the Spiritual Manifestations. They were probably produced by acting upon the people as mediums, either directly himself or through the agency of "ministering Spirits," in the same way as the same kind of phenomena are now produced by Spirits acting upon mediums, and by which the language of these mediums in Scripture language, is "confounded," and they are made to speak in "unknown tongues."

It has always been a matter of great difficulty, and it may be said of impossibility, to account for the multiplicity of languages as they now exist, and for so long a period have existed, except upon the supposition that they had their origin in some supernatural act of power, or, in other words, a miracle. But the supposition that they were the work of man and his invention, their multiplicity, their dissimilarity, and their systematic construction oppose insuperable objections. If languages were merely the work of human invention, and their boundaries were enlarged gradually, as the human mind became improved, human wants multiplied, and the stock of ideas requiring appropriate words to express them became enlarged, it would, I conceive, have been as chaotic and heterogeneous as it is possible to imagine—without plan or system. For every supposition of such an origin precludes the possibility of anything like system. Words being invented at the moment to express a particular idea could not, from the nature of the case, admit of being formed with reference to any system of language, especially such philosophical ones as these now existing. They would be invented from the urgency of the occasion to express a particular want, which it was found necessary immediately to communicate, and any form of expression which should first occur to the mind for the purpose would probably be adopted. Its adaptation to a regularly conceived system of language would never enter the head of any person first using it, because from the infancy of his intellectual powers, he could not have any conception of such a system, and there could not by the supposition be any language existing to which to adapt it. Language formed in this way, by gradual additions as the necessity of them should arise, would be as irregular, as wanting in method and order as the different paths which the first settlers of a country should strike out for themselves, and for the same reason, viz. the necessity of immediate accommodation, without reference to, or even thought of, populous towns arising in future, requiring regular streets, laid out upon a systematic plan. Thus the case of language, as well as in the case of cities, would be something that could not even be foreseen, and certainly not provided against. Language, then, originating in this way, and growing gradually, would necessarily become in time an immense mass of words, perfectly unmanageable, and such would require the labor of a century to learn. For there would be no connection or relation between its parts, much for languages upon the supposition that they were originally the work of man.

I have seen the glories of the world of spirits. I am not permitted to make known what I have beheld. Indeed, were it not forbidden, language would be inadequate to the task. The enough for you and the view to know that I have been sent back to the earth to reanimate for a few hours, my Helian body, commissioned by God to perform the work I am now engaged in."

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