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CLAIRVOYANT TRAVELS

IN HADES.

BY

A. GARDNER.

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CLAIRVOYANT TRAVELS IN HADES.

I AM very far from assuming there is no ground for believing in the "SUMMER LAND" of A. J. Davis; but I think there is a place nearer home which has not been sufficiently attended to—which is the reason I intrude the following pages on the readers of Spiritual publications, that they may be induced to make further investigations in the same direction. Hades is on the earth, under the earth, in the sea, and, indeed, everywhere about the earth, including a great portion of the atmosphere. Here myriads of things, which have had a physical existence on the earth, as well as men, continue to live; some for a very long time, and others for a shorter period. Some in ships, some in houses, many in the woods, and myriads in the air. Many sleep, and others are hallucinated so as to misconceive their position entirely. And this state results, very often, either in intense pain or unbounded happiness. At other times, lucid intervals occur, and they find themselves comparatively much in the same position they were in here.

Some time ago, I wrote out quite a number of epitomized sketches of clairvoyant experiences among the inhabitants of Hades, but I considered there was not then sufficient interest—even among Spiritualists—to warrant the outlay of publishing what I know of the matter. At present, if I am not premature, I will not overdo the thing by a large book, but confine the matter to a few pages, which will neither embarrass me nor the reader a great deal. They refer, firstly, to the phantom ships and their crews, so often seen by partially clairvoyant people on

the ocean, who have no ability to investigate the matter any further. Those ships are real, and belong to Hades, containing men, as well as other things which have lived here.

While we were investigating this subject, the spirits took the medium among those phantom or magnetic ships, so that the knowledge we gained was most thorough and complete. They went on board one ship, where they found the captain, mates, and all the crew, just as they had been in the ship that had been lost. There were on board two clergymen, three missionaries and their wives, a doctor and his dog, a poor Irishman and his wife, a young lady, who was strong and beautiful, and a young gentleman. The missionary women were urging the last-named to marry, but they resisted all their arguments. They spent their time in the usual way. The clergy preached and prayed, sang hymns, and talked about providence. The young lady and gentleman were disgusted with their dry, dogmatic style, and seemed to be more punished with their companions than anything else about them. They are supplied with food from the magnetic essences of substances they are able to attract. A turtle of monstrous size came on board to the cook while the medium was there. This same turtle had been fresh killed for some of the epicurean blacks perhaps, in some place not far distant. His magnetic turtleship would be straightway attracted to the ship to form a repast for the Spiritual mariners and their missionary passengers, who fully believed that Providence had sent them the feast in answer to their prayers. My father, who was with the medium, was visible to the young lady, and conversed with her, but she was not ready to be released, though she was, perhaps, the most likely person there. The young gentleman was a student apparently, and immersed in his particular studies. The doctor was peculiar for nothing but his dog. The mate went to take an observation, and when he told them the latitude they were very pleased, as they said they were in 34° N.L. yesterday, and were making towards the Caribbean

Islands, where they would get a fresh supply of provisions to serve them till they got to the Cape of Good Hope. But as soon as these ships come within a certain distance of any land, the magnetic repulsion is so great they are driven back, and so they are kept for years traversing the ocean between some two magnetic points. Thus they had been six years on the Atlantic, without being able to account for their strange adventures. They had no idea they were dead: and the clerical way of accounting for it was quite orthodox. They said Jesus Christ had suffered for the sins of the world, and they were suffering for their own sins. My father often spoke while they were speaking of their condition, though he was not visible to them, and they ascribed the voice to the devil. The Irish couple continued quarrelling very much, and the cook went down to the cabin to see if he could quiet them, but to no purpose. At last my father and the medium went down, visibly. He said: "What is all this quarrelling about?" Biddy turned round, and said: "An' what is the likes o' you coming to meddle between me an' my man for?" He left them as he found them. Michael was longing for something to drink, and uttering his constant complaints about being forced to abstain from the whisky he so dearly loved. His wife was only the other side of the same picture of misery. She was always busy dusting, and performing such operations as cleaning the seats. The ladies employed themselves in sewing, knitting, and other needlework, common to their rank. But their work had a tendency to disappear. One lady said she had knit nine pairs of stockings, and they had all gone, and she was mystified about the disappearance of her work more than the clergymen about the ship never getting to land, for they had a reason—Providence!—and she had none. There were several animals on board beside the doctor's dog. There was a cat and some kittens, two cows and a pig, which they had no necessity to kill. For it appears that the strong desire of the magnetic body for food, attracts fish and other things

to them, when killed within a certain radius of the place where the ship is floating. The serious studies of the young gentleman would be a great help to him, for they keep the mind quiet, and the spirit gains strength under those circumstances. The clergymen and missionaries were punctual in reading prayers, preaching sermons, and taking the sacrament. Their manners were demure and sanctimonious, and the tone of their voices dry and drawling; anything but cheerful, and calculated to inspire the people with feelings of happiness. One of them played the flute, and that was a relief from the monotony of their conversation. There were hundreds of ships in sight of the same kind, but they did not go on board any other on that occasion. They saw a number of people clinging to a wreck; some were swimming around it. One woman, with her hands clasped, seemed in great agony. They are fortunate who get a good ship, as it is a terrible state to be compelled to cling to rocks and wrecks for many years. All, more or less, have trials till they are released; but it is of great consequence to persons that they should be freed from a state of alarm. None of the ship's crew above alluded to, had any conception they were dead; and that was well for them, till they had time to get more strength and information.

On the following day they went to the same seas, and went on board another ship. There were two Catholics, several Protestants, two doctors, and a young lady and her father, besides the officers and sailors of the ship, on board. My father began to talk to the Catholics, and they called him a madman and a devil. One of them was magnetized, but he clung to his cross, and cried so hard to the other to deliver him from the devil, that he was left in that state, which would be a real hell to him for years to come. The Protestants, who were Scotchmen, held up their bibles as a defence against the attacks of the devil. They read passages, and pretended a great deal of piety, and said the Lord would deliver them from Satan. One of them took out his snuff box, and while taking a pinch, my father magnetized

the snuff, so that he could get nothing done for sneezing. Every time he attempted to talk about the Lord and Jesus his olfactory nerves gave up, and there was a dead stand till he had done sneezing. This was a sad dilemma, for he felt the rebuke. Another was made to cough every time he attempted to utter any of his slang pietistic phrases, implying salvation by proxy. The physicians were studying, and that was the best position they could be in. The captain kept on smoking his long pipe and longing for some grog, but that was an article not to be had in that latitude. The old gentleman who had the daughter was translated, and that caused a degree of inconsolable grief to her; similar to the grief of any who lose their relations by the first death. She thought he had been drowned in the sea, and could not understand he had gone to a higher sphere. She was too young in spirit or she would have been liberated with him. Another Scotchman had a broken leg, which he had got some twenty-one years before, when the ship had foundered. He was suffering from paralysis, too; and toothache was another enemy he had to contend with. One old lady was suffering dreadfully from rheumatism and many concomitants. One of her thumbs was damaged by grasping something when the ship was lost. She could not get her boot on for corns; and her complaints were manifold. This lot of people had been generally injured by the wreck, and carried their physical ills in the magnetic body.

They went into another ship where there were many merchants from divers countries. There were Germans, Frenchmen, Englishmen, and Turks, besides a Jew. The Germans were taciturn; and the Frenchmen did the talking. My father asked the Germans a question, and they eyed him with a keen, twinkling glance, but made no reply. He turned to the Frenchmen, and he got a dozen answers, but no reply to the purpose. Then he spoke to a Turk, who began a rigmarole about business, Mahomet, and tobacco. They were all alike—utterly unprepared

for any further development. The Englishmen were fond of talking about their honor, and their bravery in the defence of their country.

The next day, when they visited the ships, they seemed to have been between the Canary and Cape Verde Islands, as the medium's hand was controlled by one of the spirits to write—"I heard the captain say we were in 29° 7' N.L." They went on board a ship which was bound for the East Indies, and had been from the time of the wreck years before. There were men of many creeds among the passengers; including Brahmins and Buddhists, whom my father conversed with till they approached a part where they took in provisions, and did considerable trade with the natives. One of the passengers was a Catholic, and very noisy about his religion. He took out his cross and went through the usual ceremonies and gesticulations in token of reverence for the bauble. The Buddhists had some representations of their deities, which they also worshipped. My father magnetized the hands of the Catholic to his cross, so that he could not get them free, which much astonished him, and prevented further boasting. The man up the mast began to cry out, "Land ahoy!" and they all became boisterous with the expectation of having a change and getting ashore. But, as is the usual way with those on board these ships, they could not land: and some of the ships cannot come near the land. However, they came sufficiently near to trade with the native spirits, who brought an abundance of sheep, goats, pigs, vegetables, and fruits of many kinds. The scene on board was like a fair, for the traffic was considerable. They paid for all they got with the current coin of the country; and though it was magnetic money, it was much solidified, and would pass a considerable time before it dissolved. There is much hallucination about the trading of these spirits in Hades; but it is not all deception of the senses, but mostly real, and a necessity, for they get what they require by trade without defrauding others. The animals

that were brought on board were the Spiritual part of slaughtered beasts, and they were of the same form; and serve for food just as the external carcase serves men in this life. Many of the spirits the medium saw to-day were thieves, who had continued their former habits into the next life. They saw, also, to-day, pirate ships that were doomed to endless chase of the peaceful merchantmen.

Davis says, "Men and women are immediately after death exactly what they were before that event." Then he denies it by saying, "They are not the victims of uncontrollable passions." If they lose any passion, good or bad, they are not the same. He says right when he remarks, "Passions and vices do not inhere to the spirit—they pertain and adhere to the constitution of the soul." That is what I understand; but the spirit carries with it the "soul body," or "Spiritual body," and it is frequently dominant for a long period; and that is the state of punishment that awaits the world of undeveloped men.

When the ship left the port she was much crowded with the merchandise and provisions they had laid in. My father took the medium about to the different parts of the vessel to view the various productions of the climate. They had previously been on shore and seen the dwellings of the people, and their ways and customs. The merchants were eagerly discussing the subject of their gains, and trying to trade with each other; so that it was difficult to get to them to speak of their state. He went and spoke to one, who let them see what he had purchased—a stock of cattle and different animals. Then the Catholic came up and said the merchant was talking to the devil, for he had prevented him from getting on shore, by causing his hands to stick fast to the cross. At this my father made a few passes over him and fastened him to his seat; and caused him to cough and sneeze, so that he could not get on with his noise about the holy cross.

After conversing with several, they left that ship, and went

to another, which had been twenty-eight years on the sea, and could not come near any land. There were four missionaries on board and three ladies. My father asked them where they were going; and they said they were going to preach the gospel to the poor heathen. He said, "What gospel?" They said, "The gospel of Jesus Christ." He told them the heathen were not to be taught such doctrines, as they had imbibed: but men capable of understanding, in all countries, were to be taught the truths of nature, and no false ideas. After much reasoning with them, they seemed very pleased that he had come to relieve their monotony. He magnetized one of them, who made his escape to the second sphere.

Then they entered another ship where there were a number of passengers, both men and women. One lady was knitting or using wool in some way, whom he spoke to, and she brought out the cross for protection against evil spirits; so he caused her wool to vanish, which distressed her very much. There was a Catholic priest with whom they had some discussion. He owned if it had not been for the honor of his profession he would have believed: so he was left in the dark. They then went up to the second sphere where the medium was much instructed.

Davis tells us the physiological *color* of races does not continue in the spirit land. And he assumes that color has its origin in moral development. I can only say that all the spirits this seer has seen liberated from the old magnetic body, have retained their color; with this difference only, the color was always seen to be more perfect, whether black or white, or any intervening shade.

The next day they went to the same place. The medium calls it Port Praiah, and describes it as a small town, where spirits are occupied with the usual routine of business common with mortals in that part of the world. They went into one of the small wooden houses, which was painted, and had a shade in the front which served as a shop, where the owner was selling

a variety of hardware trinkets. My father asked him the privilege of seeing through his establishment; which was granted, with the understanding some purchase was to be made. He did not buy anything, but gave him some magnetized snuff, which pleased him much, only he could not tell what to do with it, till he was initiated into the mystery of the art of snuff-taking. He was well-up in the art of drinking rum though, and kept himself pretty much intoxicated. This state had been habitual in his first state, and his soul craved still for the usual potations. They went into another small edifice, where two women were the occupants. One was smoking; and they were engaged in selling their goods. They then sailed for a time in the ship they were in the day before. They found many passengers; among whom was a Catholic monk, a Turk, and a Scotchman. The monk was of Spanish origin, and had been at some convent in the east, where he had not improved in his learning much, for he was very obtuse; and could not be got to give a reason for any of his forms and devotions, and even thought it absurd to be asked for a reason. He carried a dagger; and was altogether a Spaniard in his nature, and an irrational formalist in his profession. The Turk had a sword—of great value in his estimation—which he displayed to the company as a thing of vast importance. The Scotchman was a worshipper of another kind: his bible was the shrine before which he prostrated all his faculties. The captain had enough to do to mind the sailing of the ship and his log-book; and the crew had to mind their several duties. However, the captain came where my father was shewing the medium, for a few minutes, the way to take a sketch of the horizon and the far-distant Cape de Verde Islands, and he said, "What are you doing?" "I am teaching the medium to draw," was his answer, at which name he was sorely puzzled. My father made many efforts to arouse the men in this ship, but there were none of them ready. The monk was much pressed, by strong arguments and Spiritual manifestations, to give up his superstitions, but he would

not yield. He had been nineteen years dead, and would, probably, remain as many years longer in the same position—a devotee of the cross, and a preacher of unscientific dogmas. My father had with him a small vial containing some fluid like water, which he shewed to them, and they brought glasses of water into which he put four or five drops of the fluid, which turned the contents of the glasses into first-rate wine. He got from them three small fish, and he augmented the number to nineteen. Then a piece of bread was made into a great number of loaves. These evidences of power, in connection with his sublime teaching, made a great impression on some of them, but they were not ready for further development.

Davis says, “The effects of a vicious life remain after death, but the causes cease to operate.” And he will not have it that a man has any further desire for sensuous gratifications, when he has parted with his physical body. But we have seen that the soul is still thirsty, and rum is still daily drank and used. We also discover little change in the mental organism of the advocates of the different samples of theologic superstition. It is clearly a gradual work, implying many pains and penalties, before the spirit is disenthralled from the evil of its earth state; particularly if the work of regeneration is not begun early here, and the individual does not live a long and natural life. The mind is, generally, a great obstacle to Spiritual development; particularly when it is deeply impressed with any set of religious dogmas, which it is unwilling to part with. Death itself does not obliterate religious ideas, however false they may be, in a short time, as some have supposed.

On the following day they went to the East Indies, and travelled along the burning coast, where the medium sensibly felt the great change of climate. They saw many spirits on the coast; and numbers of them were lying on the sands in the magnetic sleep. They went to a ship they saw at a little distance, by walking on the waters. They went on board unseen by the

crew, and went round invisibly and saw the passengers. There were many merchants, the ubiquitous Scotchman and his bible, an Irish Catholic, etc. My father introduced himself to one by enquiring what he was doing: he said he was taking his grog. He enquired what religion he was of: and he said he was of none. He believed there was a devil; and thought there was not much proof there was a God—as he never had seen a man that was not a devil in some sense. He seemed tired of his circumstances; and had not many false ideas, if he had no true ones. The Scotchman was operated upon magnetically, and made to stammer in his speech, so that he could not speak plainly when he was questioned about the bible; which might cause him to think in another direction from that in which his mind had run so long. They then went into the cabin and found some better sort of passengers. My father entered into a conversation with a lady, who said she had been nineteen years and three months in the ship, and it had never reached its destination. She said they were going to Calcutta, where she had a father, brothers, and some other relations. She said she belonged to the Society of Friends, and she was dressed in the Quaker style. She said she believed in the Lord, but had no faith in ghosts—not having any idea she was dead. She was not prepared to be released, but she became somewhat impressed with the conversation. My father told her he would come back in nineteen years, if she would give up her old ideas. There was a Spanish priest, with his dagger and cross, whom he talked to also. He flourished the dagger as if he was determined to defend the cross with it. My father told him to hold it up; he did so, and it became rusty. He was informed that nature had done that, and the cross could not undo it. He was much incensed at the indignity that had been displayed towards his means of defence, and the emblem of his religion. The many signs that were given, and the serious lecture that was delivered in this ship, would take up much space, and I cannot do justice to the whole at present.

The day following, my father appeared to the medium, knocked on the table, and shewed some papers. He read portions of one which he termed a "Complete Guide." He then put the medium into the trance state, and they went off to the Indian Ocean. There they entered a ship that was fast bound on a rock, and had been for years, serving as a refuge for shipwrecked and drowned mariners and others. There was an Indian juggler in that ship, who did very many curious things which very much amused the medium. He floated in the air, danced on the sea, turned water into wine, and caused a serpent to vanish from his hat while it was on his head. He was not a released spirit, but very expert; and for variety of manifestation, he excelled all our physical mediums. They afterwards came on shore and climbed some dreadful rocks that lay on the coast, from whence they saw a ship at a distance, and went to her. This ship was afloat, and the sea became boisterous, which put the crew and passengers in a sad fright. They seem to go into the same state of frenzy and excitement they had been in at the time they were wrecked, whenever a storm comes. When the storm ceases, they return to a state of quietness, and go on in their usual business. There was a Jew on board who was trying to teach an Irishman and a poor Indian the way to get money. The Irishman said he sold liquors, but he could not get any profit out of them. The Jew's prescription in this case was this:—take a bottle and fill with water, and put a little stuff in to color it, then sell it for wine. He shewed the Indian how he could do, by taking a piece of glass—made to look like a diamond—to a passenger, whom he persuaded, with much ingenuity, to buy it. The man made the purchase, and the Jew came back with a handfull of money, to the astonishment of the poor Indian, who was still unconvinced of his ability to make money in that or any other way. My father spoke to a Scotchman; and delivered a suitable address to the passengers generally, which had a good effect, and was well received by them. Some of them wanted another discourse;

but the Jew said he would like to have "a discourse on the way to make money." He then made some manifestations, by turning water into wine, rum, ale, etc. Then he discoursed sometime to them on the effects of a bad life, which nature always visits with pains and penalties. He then sounded a trumpet, which was answered from the second sphere, and the magnetic cloud and instruments descended, and one man was released and taken up. When the medium came out of the trance, he read some good instructions. Another played harmonious music, which seemed to come from all sides. Many other phenomena occurred which it is not necessary to relate.

In the next magnetic trance, the medium was carried to a ship sailing on the Atlantic about 30° N.L. There were many passengers on board, of different nations and professions. My father lectured to them with great fervour and apparent success, for they acknowledged he had stirred them up, though he bore hard on their different superstitions. They pressed him to speak on, and gave him a subject, which was this: "What are men to do?" He told them to follow nature, and not to believe in gods and goddesses: to cultivate their five senses. At the conclusion, a Jew said: "If we could get to know where the gold is hidden in the earth, it would be a good lecture." But many of them were completely fascinated with the many great and good things that were said. They wished much for him to remain, but he went to another ship that was near them.

In this other ship there were two missionaries, who were Catholics, and, of course, more attached to the church than their own progress. They resisted strongly; and went on with their mass in spite of all remonstrance. When they brought two lighted candles, my father told them they would burn away instantly, as a sign for them;—which was done, but with no effect on the priests. He then left them, and went into a boat, and called to his hearers in the other ship who listened to him so gladly; and when they came over, he showed them some

so-called miracles. He got out of the boat and walked on the waters. Then he draughted a great number of fish. After that, he looked up to the heavens, and pointed upwards, when a voice was heard, saying: "*You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.*" He told them it was all natural, for a spirit was speaking from the second sphere. He then went into the ship and released a slave. He made them clairvoyant, so that they could see the process of deliverance. The slave was a large man, but the spirit was very imperfect, though he was ninety years old altogether. My father shewed them that they ought to cultivate their spirits, which was the ultimate of the man. They said: "Oh! that is a sight enough to waken our souls." "Spirits," said my father, "never mind the soul—let it die." The Catholics were condemned to stand in a state of catelepsy, quite rigid, until they confessed their errors; when he promised he, or some one else, would come and release them.

The next day they were in a ship where the passengers were desirous to reach the Cape of Good Hope. They said they had been thirty years on board. They were most devout Catholics. They had a grand image of the Virgin, who held in her hand a golden cross, which they seemed to worship with fervour. My father said—after some discourse, and reading by the medium—that it was no use lecturing much to them; he would shew them something that would tend to take the vail from their eyes. There were two dramas enacted, which told on them. The one represented God the Father in the clouds of heaven, and all his servants attending on him. Then God was seen going through all the mummerly that constitutes the staple of orthodox religion, so as to make them afraid lest he should actually make a bonfire of the world, and roast them all alive. The other represented a devil roasting both Protestants and Catholics. The only difference he seemed to make between the two was this: he put a sprinkling of salt and brimstone on the Catholic, while he only put salt on the Protestant, before he put them into the oven.

These spectacles far exceeded anything of the kind in the middle ages, and they had a different effect on the spectators, for they were so afraid, that they were ready to give up their old notions. And when they were visited again the day following, they were under the impression the devil was roasting them.

From this ship they went to some men in a boat, who had been fishermen in their first estate, one of whom was released, and went up to the second sphere. My father said: "You have heard of the old saying, 'One shall be taken and the other left?'" They said they had. "Then," said he, "that is it; he is taken and you are left, for you are not ready."

They then went on board a large ship, containing many passengers and crew. Some of the crew were suffering much with an intense longing for beer. So he made them some magnetized water which tasted like beer and rum, and intoxicated too, and their desire became somewhat abated. This had no bad tendency, but rather a good one, for it quietens the mind, and the spirit is not so much troubled. The captain shewed them through the ship. In the saloon there were two priests, who were doing much to make themselves saints, by their abstemious habits and devotion. In the hold there were two transports chained together, who were busy trying to make a hole in the vessel, that they might either gain their liberty or be drowned. The captain shewed them his dogs, and some curious fruit he had, which had become petrified. They then came back in the magnetic apparatus, which was minutely explained to the medium. It is like a balloon in some respects, and is furnished with mechanical means for propulsion and guidance; and it passes through the air more quickly than a cannon ball. It is entirely ethereal, and won't do for the atmosphere, even if I were to give an accurate description of the construction. When the medium came out of the trance, strange phenomena occurred: several living things appeared, among which was a squirrel, which ran up the wall and was very active.

The next ærial trip took them to the West Coast of Africa, where they came to a magnetic ship in a storm, lying in a state of wreck, with its back broken, and the passengers in a state of great fear. The passengers went to pray in the cabin, and my father shewed a panorama to the amazed people, while they were seeking deliverance by prayer. This had a good effect, and served as a better cure than speaking seriously would have done. One of the party—a black man—was released; and the medium thought his spirit had a shade lighter color than the magnetic body; but that is to be expected, as it would be freed from many impurities.

My father appeared the next day with a roll of papers in his hand, and discoursed some time about the training of the spirit. He said there was a great difficulty with some spirits, even after they got them to the second sphere, on account of the unbalanced state of their organs. One man would be a natural warrior, who could not be cured of his predilection for fighting, until much experience had been acquired. Such are sometimes psychologized, so as to imagine themselves the heroes of a great conflict with the angels. Like John, they think there is a war in heaven, and that they are gaining glory by their courage. The whole scenery and conflict appears to them real, till they finally get wounded or imagine themselves killed. Then the scene changes, and a beautiful landscape or something else appears before their vision, which they are tempted to learn. They wish they could sketch that scene, or play on that instrument that sounds so sweetly, for they are disgusted with war, and ashamed to have engaged in a disgraceful rebellion against the angels. Thus the faculty for war becomes weakened, and other faculties come into operation, which, after much care and attention, gain the ascendancy. He shewed that the proper organs which minister most to the happiness of man must be cultivated.

They then went into the conveyance, the medium becoming entranced, and travelled to the West Coast of Africa, where they

entered a ship. This ship was an old one, some said they thought about ninety years old; but the present passengers and crew had only been in it about nine years. There was a Dutch planter, who said he wished he could get home to get his lands sold. He had some choice seeds in his possession, and much wealth. There were also two Jews, and several black merchants. My father spoke to them, and performed some manifestations, such as taking a seed of the planter's, and making it grow magnetically into a shrub in a few minutes.

They afterwards visited another ship, and spoke to the captain, whom they found a man of one idea, with no taste for anything beyond the art of navigation. He was magnetized before he could be made to realize the fact that he was dead. Then he stated that he was Captain Sommerville, from Liverpool, and his ship was lost in the Atlantic. He had a wife and six children at home, and a father and son in the spirit world; and he wished to have the intelligence of his death conveyed to his friends at home.

There was one spirit released in the first ship—a black man—and he was very small; the teeth were not grown; and he had an emaciated appearance. He would have to grow and become much more perfect in the second sphere before he could attain to consciousness.

They went to India the next day, and entered a ship which was going towards Calcutta. There was a huge shark following this vessel, and my father began to make a sketch of the scene. The medium was afraid of the shark, as it was ever and anon coming to the surface, turning over, and snapping its huge jaws, as if it was devouring something. He made a rapid sketch of the monster, which astonished some of the passengers. When they came towards Calcutta the medium was astonished at the number of ships there was in the harbour; but their ship was repelled, and would not come close to the external ships. When they had lowered a boat they went on shore, where they saw a

Custom House officer, whose eyes my father magnetized for a few minutes, and he saw their boat, and the strange ship, which put him on the *qui vive*, thinking something was being smuggled into the port. And then suddenly losing sight of the strangers and their boat, he began to talk rapidly about what he had seen; and to make enquiries, but to no effect, as no one had seen anything unusual but himself. They then went and looked at the place, and spoke to several spirits. My father said he was going to call upon a merchant, who lived in a large house. When they got to the door he opened it and went in, and then opened a room door and went into a grand apartment. Then two gentlemen came, and a seance was held. After that, they went to another house, where there were some ladies, and a short seance was held there too. These were all spirits in the magnetic body, who inhabited those houses unknown to the inhabitants on the external plane. They were not cognizant of each other's presence. Such spirits often live in their old houses—not knowing they are dead, nor having the slightest perception of any other inmates of the house. They cannot see the external inhabitants without special vision, no more than we can see spirits without clairvoyance. There is also magnetic repulsion to keep them apart; and there can be no contact with the invisibles by the outward members of a family, unless there be special magnetic conditions induced. When they had seen round the city, they went back to the ship and conversed with the captain, and then returned.

The next day they went again to Calcutta, where they met a man, whom they released from the magnetic body. They then went to a house where they met some ladies. There were three French and one Italian lady. The Italian lady was wearing very ancient costume, which indicated a long residence on the earth. She was magnetized, and her spirit came forth very full grown and perfect: her name was Justè. One of the French ladies was particularly anxious to know what had become

of her, and wished to have her back. She was told that Justè could not come back, but she would go to her. She resisted somewhat, but was eventually magnetized and made free. They then went into the street, where they had some conversation with a man, who said he was a porter; and though he had been twenty-nine years in that condition of life in Hades, he was not progressed sufficiently in spirit to be released. A man, also, who was selling fruit, and had been nine years in that state, was also left for the present. They then took a boat, and went to the ship they were in the day before. My father delivered a lecture to the crew and passengers, which met with great applause. Afterwards, he told them he would not be back to that ship for a long time; and he left them some papers to read. There was one gentleman on board who called himself a Spiritualist. He said he was from London, and believed in haunted houses, and seemed indeed to be a model Christian Spiritualist, for he knew nothing of his own state.

When the medium was entranced the next day, they went to India, and entered another ship. The captain was a man of color, and there were many spirit merchants on board, of different countries. There were a number of Jews. One was selling lead pencils and glass diamonds. My father shewed him the difference between the artificial and natural diamond; and then lectured the passengers on the evil of deception. There was then a drama acted, in which many spirits took part:—to shew to the Jews the true character of their religion. One spirit personated an angry God; others, Moses and other Jewish men of historical note. My father and sister made drawings of the coast, and sent them by a conveyance to the second sphere. They then went to Calcutta by the balloon, and visited an hospital, where were many patients, both spirits and mortals. The spirits were laboring under the delusion that they were only sick of fevers and other maladies, but had no idea they were dead. He gave some of them medicine, which set one asleep,

another semi-conscious and raving. This was done with a design to prepare them for being released. There must be either a great time allowed, or some means to prepare the spirit to leave the magnetic body in many cases. There was a colored man released, and his spirit was a beautiful jet when it left the old magnetic body. When they came out of the hospital, they had to inhale the fresh air freely, and expel the poison of the place, which was very disagreeable, from their lungs. They then called upon a very aristocratic lady, who asked for my father's card, and was very punctillious. Her husband was not in; and she was as cool as an iceberg, and could not be brought to understand her position. The page at the door took my father to be an actor, and he did not deny the profession.

My father released a giant yesterday, and had a sketch of the real man, which was a contrast with the house he had lived in. The spirit was like a child, the eyes were not opened, and it was very slender. Such spirits when full grown are inclined to be tall, but not monstrous like the bodies they were first born in. It is the body that is out of proportion, not the spirit.

When the spirits came the next day they were accompanied by a retinue of friends—in all, about 20. When all was ready they all got into the magnetic balloon, and went to a ship near Calcutta—the same they visited the day before. From which they entered a boat, and went to the city. They made straight for the house of the merchant whom they did not find at home yesterday. They went into a room and waited for the appearance of the lady, whom they requested to send for her husband again. The introduction was most polite on both sides this time, as the lady began to think she was honoured by a high personage, having apparently so many servants and attendants. She thought it might be King George, as she was English, and had died in the reign of some of the Georges. When the husband came, my father told him he had come with a warrant, and he gave him a paper to read, which informed him that he

was ready for a higher sphere, and he was now to prepare for the change. He wrote some papers relating to his property, and he was then magnetized, and his spirit came forth, and was carried by attendants to the second sphere. The lady then began to weep, and said it was cruel to take him away, when she also was magnetized, and came forth a beautiful young spirit. They then went to the hospital where they were before, and my father gave some drugs and written directions to one of the spirits that had come with him that day, and left him to do what was wanted there. Then they got into the balloon and sailed over the town, at a low altitude, to see the place and make observations. After they had done so, they went back to the ship, and went into a state-room, where dinner was taken by the company with something more than Oriental magnificence. After which several short lectures were delivered, and two spirits released belonging to the ship.

The day following they went to Cape Town, in Africa, which they found shut up as regards business, for it was Sunday. They went to a college or school of some sort, where there are quite a number of spirits as well as mortals. My father enquired for the master, and they were shewn into a private room till he came. The master was an old gentleman who had been 23 years in that situation. When he came he naturally enquired the business of his visitors, and my father took out a book and wrote a few lines on it, and gave him them to read. This he did, not only that he might understand his mission, but that he might receive a portion of his magnetism at the same time. He was very much astonished at the nature of the information which he received, as he had no idea of being taken from the earth. He became partly magnetized by the paper, and then was completely so by passes, and his spirit came forth more developed than many, but still not near what it would be after a short residence in the second sphere.

They went to Cape Town again soon after ; but before landing

they entered a magnetic ship and spoke to an Italian and a Frenchman. The Italian complained much of his state of bondage, and wished he could get back to Italy by any means, for he had been nineteen years in that ship, and she would neither sink nor reach land. They then went over the town, and visited a house some distance from thence. My father told the inmates at once he had come to release them, at which they were astonished, but did not know what he meant. He began to magnetize the lady, and then her husband, and they both came forth very well formed spirits. After that they sailed in their ærial carriage to a place called the Wizard's Isle, where he released both the wizard and his two daughters. He shewed the medium the cause of the man taking up such a profession—his organ of secretiveness was very large. They then went to a Dutch peasant's house, which was a pattern of neatness and cleanliness, while the grounds were well arranged and very orderly. The man and woman were both made free, and a child they had was magnetized so as to put it into a kind of reverie wherein it would not miss its parents.

After that they went to a place on the sea shore, where they saw a man fishing. My father asked him what he was doing: he said he was fishing, and he said this bait has lasted me twenty-four years. So he was magnetized, and his spirit came forth a very hardy, well formed spirit. Such might be expected from the quiet profession he had been following. The Dutchman and his wife were very small spirits; but the organ of order was high in both.

The next day they went to an island in the Indian Ocean, where they visited a graveyard, and found a number of spirits dressed in white garments. My father spoke to several of them, and elicited answers which shewed the kind of delusions they were labouring under. One was leading a white horse about, and he said he was the angel Gabriel. Another was paying homage to the cross, and silently worshipping his former idol.

Some said God had ordered them to walk there in solitude. Afterwards they went to a forest where the fairy kings and their dutiful subjects reside. These are immense jungles where there are whole nations of spirits, from other countries, particularly Europe, enjoying, as they suppose, the Paradise they were taught to believe in while in their first state. They saw the ceremonies of one nation performed before the Lord. He (God) was a stout old gentleman who was seated on a throne, and had on his head a golden crown. He was judging the people—the elect being on his right hand, and the other class on his left. The scene was very dramatic, and the decorations superb. All the superstitions extant in Europe a century or more ago were to be seen. The very witches were there, to tell the people when they would be lucky or the contrary. This was all the heaven the teachers of religion had prepared the people for here, and they were satisfied, for they had an occasional sight of God and the other functionaries of the common theology. It is common for spirits of this class to go to uninhabited places to live, for they are not so much disturbed by contrary magnetism. That is the reason why so many European spirits arrive in India and other places where there is not a dense population on the outward plain. There they remain in those solitudes some for centuries, and others for a lesser period, having no idea generally that they are in Hades, and are spirits in prison. Some enjoying the beatitudes of heaven, as they think, and others enduring the torments of hell.

The following day they visited again the jungles of India, and examined a place of torment where the wicked were being tormented with fire and brimstone by the devil and his angels. The place was down a deep pit, generally called the bottomless pit, because you cannot see the bottom of it when you look down. There were a number of spirits in it who were suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. There was truly weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and it all seemed to be fine music to the

devil, who kept commanding his inferiors to make the place still hotter, and to put more brimstone on the bodies of the wretches who were crying bitterly for water to cool their parched tongues. Of course, all the fire and brimstone was in the imagination of the wretches who were thus tormented by the mesmeric delusions of the spirits that officiate as the executioners of the punishment that had been awarded. The judge passes sentence, and the culprits are taken away into everlasting fire, which is all perfectly real to them, and is intended to frighten them out of their evil habits.

Where the Mahometans make their Paradises there is nothing wanting that the chieftain promised. Beautiful women are always noticed, and delicious streams and fountains of water refresh the senses perpetually. So that the inhabitants have nothing to do but yield themselves up to the pleasures that fall uninterruptedly to their lot.

In some Christian towns in the east in Hades there is still a practice kept up of the devil going about every night as a roaring lion. This is a man dressed in a lion's skin, with two or three tame lions, which he beats till they roar and fight with each other. The noise they make produces the desired effect, for all the loafers and scamps are seen to run and hide themselves. Woe be to the man at whose door the devil roars, for he cannot escape the idea of being devoured. These Oriental myths are of great weight with the denizens of Hades, and they are very soon frightened and hallucinated by them. But it must always be understood that it is only the loafers and thorough bred rascals that wont work or behave aright that fall into the hands of the devil and his angels, who know their customers, and lay it on thick.

There are spirits who are devoted to the chase, and live a wild and nomadic life, in places they tell you they dreamt of in the days of their childhood. These hunters say they are in the hunting grounds of their ancestors, and God has given them all

they desired, for they are free, and have abundance of game on which to live; which makes them satisfied with their state. They went into the tent of one man, whom they found roasting two small birds and some other kind of meat. This man was as content as if he had been master of all India. In such cases the spirit is developed quite as soon, and often sooner, than when the individual comes under the rule of the church, and is bamboozled with heaven and hell. These spirits of the wood really live on the game they entrap or get hold of. The birds are particularly numerous, for they come from all parts to the solitudes of the jungles when they are killed in other countries. For a bird, when it is killed, becomes a spirit bird with a magnetic body, and flies off to seek a place of rest, just as man does. They then went back to the fairy kingdom and liberated three men, one of them at least had been one hundred years there.

The next day they went to Mount Lebanon, but instead of landing on *terra firma* they ascended directly upwards to a distance of about eight miles from the earth, and came to the counterpart of the Syrian hills in Hades. There exists at that distance a spiritual transcript of all the mountains, rivers, and great outlines of the earth's surface, so that spirits that go there know no difference. There is to be found every street, mosque, bazaar, and building of every city. They went in the first place to a Latin convent, which was a *fac-simile* of one straight below it. Here they were pounced upon by some monkish beggars, who made a fierce attack upon them for backsheesh, which was duly handed over. But when the demand became very heavy they were forced to exercise a process unknown to the mendicants, for they gave them handfuls of magnetic gold, which put them in ecstasies, but it would melt to real nothing soon after. The convent was inhabited by some who had been inmates of the earthly place. The monks were performing their everlasting ceremonies, just as they had done on the earth. They visited also the ærial Damascus, and saw its wonders. They were in

the bazaars, and the medium particularly noticed a piece of cotton marked "Manchester, England." So with other things exposed for sale, they were ærial as well as spiritual, and exactly similar to things that had existed on the earth. Schools, books, religions, and superstitions are all similar to what is or has been below. They saw dancing girls, and other amusements were going on as they do on the earth. They noticed a fine fountain, called the "Fountain of the Virgin." The mosques were attended, and the Mahometan ceremonies were performed as on the earth. One place was particularly sacred, for it was said that Mahomet had trodden on that ground. They got some fine grapes, for which they paid, in genuine coin, two piastres. They saw a sacred place belonging to the Latins, and two monks at the door, who said, this is the Chapel of the Virgin. To see into the sacred place where they shew the slipper of Mahomet and other relics, they had to pay two piastres to go in, and other two to see the fountain where Mahomet drank, and other two to see the slipper. There was most to see outside, but they gave them the money to let the medium see their customs. Here my father was robbed of a great many most valuable things—gold medals, set with diamonds, &c. This he pretended not to discover till he got to the door, and then he rushed back and charged them with the theft. They vociferously denied it, and shouted for him to be put out; but he said firmly, I will all my property to come back, and instantly all the pockets of the thieves were turned out, and the articles flew back to him. This caused great consternation, and they began to cry out surely Mahomet has been here. When they left they were rudely treated by some women who admired the dress of my sister rather more than comported with honesty, for they stole a bracelet from her arm. She willed it to come back to her, and it came flying through the air, which made them fall down in a state of terror. They suffered all these indignities to let the medium see the people as they really are. When they came

down to the earth they landed in the valley between the Lebanon ridges, and then directed the conveyance toward England, which soon brought the medium home.

The following day they went to the fairyland of the saints, and saw the hallucinated votaries of ecclesiastical superstition. There are many heavens in Hades, as there are many religions on the earth, and many sects in each religion, who have all their different notions about heaven and what it should consist of. They are all artificial, however, and the decorations are all artistic and mechanical. They are uniformly governed by a God. Jesus is a necessity; and the Virgin is a *sine qua non* in many. Music is prevalent on all occasions, and absolutely requisite to keep down contention. The heaven they visited to-day partook of many of the essential qualities of the rest of those places. The place was lighted with an artificial sun, so that there was no night there. The throne of God was magnificent. Jesus was seated on a chair all adorned with gold, and he wore a crown of diamonds. The Virgin is a paragon of all excellence, and demeans herself with modesty and grace. All heaven is redolent of her charms, and she speaks with charming eloquence when she addresses the Father. All is exquisite, and adorned with appropriate magnificence, in this department of fairyland.

It will not be difficult to conceive that the heavens are all artificial, and without any exception, the device of men. The gods are always educated personages, and specially trained to the business of government. Jesus is never the actual Nazarene, but a man suited for the office. So with the Virgin, and all others that have office in heaven. As respects the inhabitants of heaven, they are all unprepared for the second sphere, or they would not be there long. Yet, however they may be fascinated with the place called heaven, nature leads to changes, and the time comes to all when they are called to inherit a higher sphere than the church ever promised, or they ever stipulated for.

They went to the ærial island of Malta, on the next excursion, and were present at some of the many strange exhibitions to be seen in that part of the undeveloped spirit world. The Roman Catholic church is there largely represented, and they saw few religionists who were not of that faith. A small colony of American Shakers had found their way thither; but seemed out of place among the priesthood of the Romish persuasion. They approached the golden gate of the magnificent temple, which was constructed of pure white marble, and inspected the stupendous structure, which certainly has not anything to match it on the island below. But this is heaven, and must, to suit the religious idea, have something more gorgeous than the earthly cities, or the illusion could not be sustained. As they entered the gates, they saw a row of images or statues representing some of the idols of the church, such as Anna, the Virgin, Jesus, Joseph, and father Abraham, lifting his arm to slay his son. These statues are more costly affairs than anything earthly of the sort, and are clothed with drapery such as there is nothing here to compare with. The jewels and gold about them were sufficient to excite the admiration of all beholders. Some of them were speaking images. Jesus could talk and answer questions quite easily, but seemed averse to make the effort when there was no prospect of a gratuity being offered. Abraham was of the same opinion, for the angel only called on him when travellers were passing by. There were men inside the images who knew how to act their part, and when to desist from the performance. They visited the convents and monasteries, and were strongly invited to join the holy church. My sister, who was taken to be a rich heiress, was urgently pressed by the lady superior and the nuns to enter the convent, and she was obliged to tell them she had a daughter, and leave them with the impression that she might send her to the convent school. The bondage and restraint under which the inferior nuns were held was not compensated by the liberal education they were receiving.

They are adepts in music, many languages, and other accomplishments; but they are not allowed to use their minds in a natural direction, nor to exercise themselves in the free air, except by special leave from their superior, which is all at war with their nature, and prevents their development. The monks were in the same state of enslavement, and seemed to be always longing for things they could not get. Some were using artifice to gain means of getting a little tobacco into their cells, and were under terrible apprehensions lest they should be found out in using it.

They were shewn all over those places, and told where the stained windows and costly statues came from. Some rich English, or liberal French lady, had been greatly favored of heaven, etc.

They then went to a part where the theatres, oratorios, and places of amusement were open. They read the play-bills, which were remarkably like the same sort of literature on the walls of towns here below. There were all sorts of people thronging to see the play, and they seemed to be in a hurry, much like all such people when they anticipate any means of excitement or enjoyment. They were going to play *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which would certainly be a contrast to the sad women of the convent. Their music is very earthly, too, for the medium heard a piece which is called the *Dead March in Saul*.

On a subsequent occasion, when my father and the other spirits had come, they said, "We are going to travel among the French knights of the time of Louis the Fifth." Several strange things occurred before the medium was entranced, such as the appearance of several living animals. When they entered the magnetic balloon they were carried to the south of France. There they entered a house, and found a gentleman and his daughter in the library busy packing up their valuables, and about to flee from the executioner. They each mounted a horse,

and their valet another, without informing the other domestics, and set off for Switzerland. They then entered a larger mansion, and found the inmates occupied with the same fears. But they seemed inclined to submit to the king, and drink his health in the presence of a witness. My father and his companions then went to seek an audience with the king himself, which was granted, after he had sent in his card with his titles and authority. Then commenced a long discussion about the revolution that was going on, which amounted to this:—Louis was acting a part for the benefit of lower spirits, and though he was a wise man himself, he was not ready for the change, for his spirit was still small and young. He asked my father for a memento of his visit, and he took out a book and gave to him, which was entitled a “Complete Guide to the Mysteries.”

When they left the king, they mounted on horses and rode about the streets of the city they were in; and then entered a *café*, where the ladies had coffee, and my father and some of the rest took to old Madeira.

Then they went to a convent, where the usual ceremonies of introduction passed off, and the invitations to join the holy order were reiterated till it was found to be useless. They were shown all the images and relics, as is customary. There were about sixty young ladies in the school—all under the influence of the place, which made them long to become nuns. The lady superior was a haughty person, and carried her airs in the presence of the travellers so far, that she excited remarks bordering on contempt for her images. When they left, they came to Calab in the balloon, and visited an hotel and other places, where there was much to be seen.

Hades is as real as this state, but it is very much engaged in mythical and historical dramas, which are continually acted to the benefit of the inhabitants, who are, for the most part, entirely ignorant that they are not engaged in something original.