

### Origin of Spiritualism.

Spiritualism in America was born in 1847, in Hydesville, Wayne County, N. Y., where one night there was a rapping at the door of Michael Weekman, and a second rapping at the door, and a third rapping at the door, and every time the door was opened there was no one there. Proof positive that they were invisible knuckles that rapped at the door. In that same house there was a man who felt a cold hand pass over his forehead, and there was no arm attached to the hand. Proof positive it was spiritualistic influence. After awhile, Mr. Fox, with his family, moved into that house, and they had bangings at the door every night. One night Mr. Fox cried out: "Are you a spirit?" Two raps, answer in the affirmative. "Are you an injured spirit?" Two raps, answered in the affirmative. Then they knew right away that it was the spirit of a peddler who had been murdered in that house years before, and who had been robbed of \$500. Whether the spirit of the peddler came back to collect his \$500 or his bones I do not know. But from that time on there was a constant excitement around the premises, and the excitement spread all over the land, and Judge Edmunds had his head turned by the excitement, and he says that he saw a bell start from the top of a shelf in the closet and heard it ring over the heads of the people who were in the closet, then swing to the back parlor and ring over the heads of the people in the back parlor, then swing to the front parlor and ring over the heads of the people in the front parlor, and then drop on the floor. A young man was said to have been lifted from the earth and carried through the air by an invisible power, and giving an account of it he says he went so rapidly he could not count the posts of the fence; and he held in his hand a saw-buck and a square, and he says while he went they rattled together and made most delightful music. All these are matters of history. People said: "Well, now we have a new religion." But in all ages there have been necromancers—those who consulted the spirits of the departed—charmers who threw people into mesmeric state; sorcerers who, by eating poisonous herbs can see everything, hear everything, and tell everything; astrologers who found out a new dispensation of the stars; experts in palmistry who can tell by the lines in the palm of your hand your origin, your history, and your destiny. From the cavern on Mount Parnassus, it is said, there came up an air, an atmosphere, that intoxicated the sheep and the goats that came near by, and under its influence the shepherds were lifted into exaltation, so that they could foretell future events and consult with familiar spirits. Long before the time of Christ the Brahmins had all the table-rocking and the table-quaking. You want to know what God thinks of all these things. He says in one place: "I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers." He says in another place: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," and lest you should make too wide a margin between spiritualism and witchcraft, He groups them together and says: "There shall not be found among you a consultor with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer, for all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord;" and then the still more remarkable passage which says: "The soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set My face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people," and a score of passages showing that God never speaks of these in any other way than with livid thunders of indignation. After all this, be a spiritualist if you dare.—Dr. Talmage, in *Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine*.

### Wonders of Plant Life.

Lord Lindsay states that in the course of his wanderings amid the pyramids of Egypt, he stumbled on a mummy, proved by its hieroglyphics to be at least 2,000 years old. In examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a tuberous root. He took it from the mummy's hand, planted it in a sunny soil, allowed the rains and dews of heaven to descend upon it, and in the course of a few weeks, to his astonishment and joy the root burst forth, and bloomed into a beauteous dahlia.

The roots of many plants retain their vitality under intense temperature. Those of the *vitis agnus castus* will not be affected though immersed in boiling water, and boiling water may be applied to many others without their sustaining injury. Certain plants also may by their roots absorb some poisons which would be destructive to others.

The longevity of the spores of ferns is well known. Some have grown when taken from herbarium specimens after having been gathered many years. A recent writer, Mayer, says he has had them grow at twenty years; but he believes this is about the limit. It is now known that pollen has also a surprising long lease of life.

A remarkable instance of continued vitality of seeds has just come to light in Greece. In clearing away the refuse from the ancient silver mines of Laurium, a large number of seeds were found, unknown to modern science, but described in the writings of Pliny. The seeds took root, budded and blossomed, bearing beautiful yellow flowers after a burial of at least 1,500 years.

Somewhere in the State of Maine a few years ago, a well was dug, the earth, which was thrown out from a great depth, being left on the surface of the ground. The following spring, strange vegetable growths made their appearance, unknown in that part of the country. Who can tell for how many ages these seeds had slept in their dark beds?

### Mistook Her for a Dummy.

At the entrance to one of the prominent dry-goods stores on Federal street, Allegheny, recently, a lady, remarkable for the wax-like appearance of her complexion, stood waiting for a car. A young man, accompanied by two ladies, passed in and came out in a few minutes. The lady was still standing like a statue in the same position. The young man said, "Now just look at this," and raised his hand and struck the sup-

posed figure a smart slap on the cheek. The statue turned a pair of flashing black eyes on him and willed him with a look. He stammered incoherently: "I—I thought you were a dummy, and almost ran away, allowing his companions to follow as best they could."—*Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph*.

### A Legend of the Narcissus.

There dwelt, in fact, Cathay, a man rich in gold, silver, and lands; he had two sons. The mother had long been sleeping 'neath the roses and lilies. At length the father fell sick, and his two sons gathered around his dying couch to receive his parting blessing. To the eldest son he gave all his possessions, except a small, rocky piece of ground, containing a few acres, which he gave to his youngest son.

After the last sad rites were paid to the departed father, the youngest son, crest-fallen and dejected, turned to his poor inheritance; but he found it so barren and unfruitful that he left it and became a wanderer in the land. At length, weary and foot-sore, he came to a rippling brook, where with its crystal waters he quenched his thirst; and 'neath the friendly willow he laid himself down to rest. The fragrance of the parts, and perhaps the next day the left arm and leg would be similarly affected. Then again it would locate in some particular part of my body and produce a tenderness which would well-nigh drive me frantic. There would be weeks at a time that I would have no relief from the constant pain that would come on every afternoon and leave me comparatively free from suffering during the balance of the twenty-four hours."

"Of course you consulted the doctors regarding your difficulty?"

"Consulted them? Well, I should say I did. Some told me I had neuralgia; others that I had inflammatory rheumatism, for which there was no cure."

"But didn't they try to relieve your misery?"

"Yes, they vomited and physicked me, blistered and bled me, plastered and oiled me, sweat, steamed and everything but froze me, without avail."

"But how did you finally recover?"

"I had a friend living in Michigan who had been afflicted in a similar way and had been cured. He wrote me regarding his recovery and advised me to try the remedy which cured him, namely, taking a bottle of water each meal and at bed time. I had used it about a week when I noticed a decrease of the soreness of the joints and a general feeling of relief. I persevered in its use and finally got so I could move around without limping, when I told my friends that it was Warner's Safe Rheumatic Cure that had put me on my feet."

"Will you regard your cure as permanent?"

"This was more than a year ago, so well in years as I am now."

"Speaking of President-elect Cleveland, who, in your opinion, will comprise his Cabinet?"

"That is as difficult to determine as it is to predict the future."

"What an Indian Bathes.

People often wonder why it is that a fleshly Indian is so seldom seen. A scientist has discovered that it is water and not food that makes people fat. Whether this holds good with the noble red man or not is hard to say, but if an Indian were to depend on the water he uses in washing to become fat it is safe to say that he would be the thinnest man under the sun. The only time that an Indian ever gets a bath is when he rides his pony across a stream or gets tipped out of a boat.—*Peck's Sun*.

### Smoking as a Gentleman.

There is no one thing, perhaps, in which the difference between the well-bred man and the ill-bred man more appears than in the manner in which the place where, and the time when they smoke.

The well-bred man does not smoke, nor does he seem to smoke, to show off, whereas the ill-bred man very often smokes in a self-conscious manner that seems to say: "Look at me! see how skillfully my lips hold this cigar; how I can shift it from one side of my mouth to the other without touching it with my fingers, and how well I can articulate with it in my mouth; in short, look you what perfect control I have over my labial muscles, and, having seen, admire!" In short, there are many low-bred young men—very many—that appear to smoke only to display their—imagined—grace and skill, when, in fact, in smoking as they do, where they do, and when they do, they publish their vulgarity. Such men are certainly not of the sort that Shakespeare accuses of having a "vaunting ambition." As they smoke chiefly for show, a poor cigar answers their purpose as well as a good one; consequently, they usually buy of the kind that are sold at the rate of two for a cent.

**Mourning for the Dead.**  
There are few things in which men and women show themselves so irrational as in prolonged and consuming grief for the dead. It is not in human nature to be philosophic in order to draw it, keeps it in his mouth no longer than is necessary, and never fails to remove it when he talks, or passes any one toward whom he would be respectful, especially a lady. Further, our best-bred men never smoke in any street at an hour when it is much frequented, nor in any public place where smoking is to be offensive to others.—*The Mentor*, by Alfred Ayres.

The common tradition that the timber of old churches was frequently of chestnut seems to have been exploded by the researches of the French chemist, M. Payer, who procured a large number of pieces for examination, and pronounced that they were not chestnut, added to which chestnut trees, whatever their abundance in old times, are now known to be of little value.

We are told that if letters are drawn upon oak and chestnut planks, by means of pure sulphate of iron dissolved in distilled water, the characters appear at once in black upon the oak and in deep violet upon the chestnut, while ammonia produces a short-lived red upon the chestnut, which is much paler and less distinct upon the oak. Another mode of examination is by making sections of the wood, which cannot well be mistaken, as chestnut timber possesses only concentric layers, while all French and American varieties of oak show the medullary rays crossing the woody fiber from the center across the circumference.

Formosa there is not much sickness, but when a man is sick they string him up by the neck and let him down again oakly. This generally kills or cures him, and if the former his death is celebrated by a general spree.

At twenty-one a man is provided with a wife, but until the age of forty he must not visit her openly. He may do so stealthily, however, and if he doesn't like her he can get a divorce in ten minutes. A man often marries four or five times a year. No children born before the mother has reached thirty-seven are in any case permitted to live.

Best Goods Are Put in Smallest Parcels.

The old proverb is certainly true in the case of the "Pig's Eye Water, Negative Pellets," which are little sugar-wrapped parcels, scarcely larger than mustard seeds, containing as much as a hair's width as is done up in the biggest, most repulsive-looking pill. Unlike the big pills, however, they are mild and pleasant in their operation—do not produce gripping pains, nor render the bowel's constipation.

CRYSTALLIZED sugar is the "rook" that has turned many a man a-tire.—*Marathon Independent*.

### CLEVELAND'S CABINET.

Probable Effects of the Change on Office-Holders—Views of an Old-Timer.

[Correspondence Rochester Sunday Herald.]

"Yes, the principal topic of conversation here at present is the probable action of the incoming administration."

The speaker was Mr. William M. Ashley, of 506 Main street, a man whose large and intimate acquaintance with prominent public men here in Washington renders his opinion of unusual weight.

The all-important question among the class of the various departments is, Who is to go?—and the opinion will probably be that the old-timers will be retained, as he has been here in and out through several administrations. The removals will occur among the heads of departments."

"The sense of mistrust which must necessarily pervade the departments is, I suppose, detrimental to the proper transaction of business."

"Well, rather, I reckon. It unites the clerks for purposes. Some get very blue, for they have purchased little homes which they must sacrifice."

"Last summer it was reported that many were ill of malaria. How is it?"

"More likely ill of a fever of change. I don't think Washington is so very malarious. At the same time I admit that since residing here I have not always felt first-rate. At times I have been ill with a fever of change among the old-timers. One day my right arm and leg would torture me with pain, there would be great redness, heat and swelling of the parts, and perhaps the next day the left arm and leg would be similarly affected. Then again it would locate in some particular part of my body and produce a tenderness which would well-nigh drive me frantic. There would be weeks at a time that I would have no relief from the constant pain that I would come on every afternoon and leave me comparatively free from suffering during the balance of the twenty-four hours."

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A Valuable Medical Treatise.

The edition for 1885 of the sterling Medical Annual, known as Hostetter's Almanac, is now ready, and may be obtained, free of cost, of druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the United States, Mexico, and indeed in every civilized portion of the Western Hemisphere. This Almanac has been issued regularly at the commencement of every year for over one-fifth of a century. It combines, with the soundest practical advice for the preservation and restoration of health, a large amount of medical and astronomical calculations, chronological items, etc., are prepared with great care, and will be found entirely accurate. The issue of Hostetter's Almanac for 1885 will probably be the best ever issued, as it is the most complete and accurate ever published.

Young Men, Read This.

THE VOLTAIC BELT CO., of Marshall, Mich., offer to send their celebrated ELECTRO-VOLTAIC BELT and other ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES for trial for thirty days to any (young or old) afflicted with rheumatism, debility, loss of vitality and manhood, and all kindred trouble.

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