Spiritualism and the Secular Press.

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The Washington Post (1877-1954); Oct 16, 1894; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post pg. 10

Editor Post: Having written for the spiritualist press for a number of years, I venture to offer some suggestions regarding the correspondents and press writers in their descriptions of spiritualist meetings, and concerning spiritualism generally.

It would seem as though, when such eminent men of learning as Crookes, Wallace, Varley, Zoliner, Hare, Epes, Bargent, Fichte, Flammarion, Schiaparelli, and hosts of others have given their unqualified testimony in support of the phenomena of spiritualism, that the average newspaper writer or correspondent might make at least ordinary effort to become sufficiently well informed to correctly write up a spiritualist gathering. If the average note-taker or correspondent could see their pen sketches as they appear to the well-informed spiritualist, I fear their cheeks might take on the hue of the rose.

In its recent account of the Second Annual Spiritualist Convention, an evening paper of this city stated that a sum of money was to be secured by subscription in aid of the association, the delegate making the effort go into a trance, and the controlling spirit designated who should donate sums of money. Now, the fact is, the gentleman's effort took the form of a humorous appeal, but the reporter took it in good earnest. However, this is a comparison with the emolument every one of us has, and then, describing the ordinary seance in some one or other of the secular press, here or elsewhere, which is due. I am sorry to say, to a spirit of ridicule, resulting from ignorance.

The Post's account of the late convention was most exhaustive and admirable, for which it received resounding thanks, but I must refer to a small misstatement where the tests were given by Mrs. J. H. Allens. "In walking down the middle aisle, Mr. Allens tapped the sitters," said The Post, "on the head, and these were the spirits." In explanation: The medium's nervous system, under spirit control, is in a highly excited state, and his actions may have appeared grotesque to the uninformed observer.

Lately an article appeared which was a total misapprehension of ideas and perversion of facts, purporting to be the experience of an onlooker at a Sunday meeting of spiritualists. However, from the tone of the article, the writer was seemingly a youth, and may be forgiven on that score; or, it may become better informed before venturing to make reports of such things. Among other misstatements, was one speaking of the assertions of the lecturer of the evening, the writer assuming that they were antagonistic to the orthodox forms of faith. Allow me to say that spiritualism is the vital principle or essence of every religion known to man. It antagonizes only the crescence of dogma and myth, and not the underlying principle and phenomena. There are weak points, we admit, resulting from dishonest persons assuming the guise of mediums, mediums lacking sufficient development of psychic force, mediums who have done no good, etc., but it is the purpose of a systematized organization to eliminate these as far as possible, and every spiritualist of worth has his or her heart in the work of regeneration, and the coming years will certainly bear the grand results of last week's convention.

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