GROWTH OF SPIRITUALISM.

A Washingtonian Explains the Reasons for the Advance.

"There is no subject upon which so many very good people are totally in the dark as that of spiritualism," said a well-known Washingtonian who has a taste for the occult to a Post man yesterday. "It is almost generally misunderstood and is talked of and written about in a most reckless manner, leaving the impression that only long-haired, brainless men and short-haired, gullible females are believers in what are usually termed so-called spirit phenomena. Now, the facts are quite the contrary. If they were not, spiritualism would have died out; or would have at least but a few followers; but as it is not the thing the scoffers and critics believe it to be, it has grown very rapidly, until now there are over one million people in the United States who are pronounced spiritualists. What is the underlying reason for this phenomenal growth? Simply this: Spiritualism is a science and a religion; it is demonstrable and can be proved as surely as any other science. Hence it does not rest on mere faith, and requires no faith of any kind for its investigation. It is open to all—Christian, Pagan, Jew, or materialist—and is not confined to those who have already some faith in the matter. Its growth has been a sure and steady one in all the civilized countries of the world. Its phenomena and philosophy prove beyond a doubt the immortality of the soul, a continuous and progressive existence in the spirit world, personal responsibility for all our deeds here; yes, even for our thoughts, and the reward or punishment is exactly graded to our deserts. It teaches a belief in a great spirit power, a Supreme Intelligence called God, of whom mortal man can have no conception. It teaches the universal reign of law and a better understanding of the purposes of life here and hereafter. It consequently teaches no fear of death, of which Gen. Sherman had the proper conception when he said, 'It is as natural to die as to be born.' It is not so great a mystery as orthodoxies teach. The cold grave is not the end, but rather the beginning for which life on earth is a preparatory state. The great Apostle Paul fully understood it when he said, 'There is a material body and there is a spiritual body.' All nature sustains this assertion and spiritualism holds the proof within its grasp ready to give it to all who honestly seek it. It will no longer, therefore, be sufficient, even to make skeptics more skeptical, to laugh at and ridicule this wonderful proof of life after death, and a writer who has not thoroughly investigated the philosophy of spiritualism is certainly an incompetent critic, condemning what he knows nothing of and in his conceit virtually saying, 'What I don't know can not be true.' Spiritualism is not what one usually sees advertised in flier posters or in newspapers at 50 cents a pack. It is not of the 'fourth-daughter-of-the-seventh-son' sort, and it is to be regretted that so many people are deterred from its investigation by fakers and mountebanks. But with all the dead load it has to carry and still carries it thrives as no other religion has ever done."