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Letter to John C. Bundy, 1889-03-14

Joseph Peace Hazard

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Recommended Citation

Hazard, Joseph Peace, "Letter to John C. Bundy, 1889-03-14" (1889). *Joseph Peace Hazard Papers*. 37. https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/jp_hazard/37

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Peaudale R. I. March 14. 89

John C. Brady Esq.

Dear Sir.

I wrote a note to you

yesterday, in which I intended to add,
as follows, ~~concerning the "Fox Gents"~~
"The Fox Gents" who in their old age
~~who~~ have disavowed Spiritualism -
(at least, one of them) and declare
all of their "manifestations" were mere
Frauds on their part; then indi-
cating a degree of depravity that is
not only ~~unbelievable~~ incredible,
but - to ~~say~~ ^{imagine} - inconceivable.

It has been said they have become
intemperate: ~~If this is the case; then~~
If this is the case, may not their apparent
travels may be easily accounted for
and without ~~the degree of~~
increasing the degree of
Criminality they have been charged with.

2 Furthermore, ~~inasmuch~~ as there was the first instance of the one name Era of "Spiritualism", ~~may~~ ^{may} not this fact imply a ~~very~~ ^{peculiarly high} degree of the description of Sensitiveness that is incident to "Spiritual Mediumship".

It has occurred to me that inasmuch as the Mediumship of the "Fox Sisters" ~~was~~ first manifested itself in the ~~success~~ of Sam Nienly ~~was~~ in which diving Rods were used for finding water, ^{for wells} that is also a Spiritual Mediumship, the vicinage ~~in itself~~ may be ~~peculiar~~ ^{adapted} to do in a peculiarly high degree adapted to development of "Spiritual Mediumship".

You are, of course, familiar with the ~~story~~ ^{history} of "The Cook Lane Ghost", that created such an excitement in the City of London, about a Century ago; and which, ~~was~~ ^{was} the Mr. Calcutta. But some fishermen went to see, It seems incredible that there could have been such a degree of incredulity concerning possibility of Ghosts at that time, ^{on the ocean} ^{occurs} Their Knockings ^{on the ocean} always occurred in presence of a little girl, and were attributed to her own wickedness, ^{of distinction} ^{at} an idea that was confirmed by the fact that when she was threatened with whipping, ~~for~~ the Knockings ceased; as we ~~now~~ know, that unless the mind of a "Spiritual Medium" ^{is} in calm condition, the power of Mediumship is suspended, for the time being, ^{when in Power} The Spirit of "Or the day of" is, no doubt, the blackest, ~~and~~ ^{and} foulest

and must write Pencil copy and 3
written and sent, I have ^{"I tell"}
have yet been able to insert and
set at work.

In regard to the incredulity
that denies the possibility of ^{"Ghosts"} ^{"Hunted Houses"}, I will here remark
that being at a Hotel in the City of
Genoa, in Italy, some years ago, a
gentleman called to see me, and pro-
posed to take a trip in a private
Carrriage, for a few days.

Our journey ended at the City of Nice,
where I remained about a week and
saw my companion, whose name, every
day, and knew not his name until
he arrived at Nice, where he had
a nice residence of his own, and in
which he asked me to spend the winter.
That I would gladly have gladly accepted
had other engagements ^{and business} not forbidden.

I made no mention of the subject
of Spiritualism to him, but happened
to think of The Irish "Banshee",
and supposing it to be a mere superstition

4 and entertained by the lower class^{only}, I
asked him about it,

To my amazement, he replied that
he had often heard it in his own house,
~~and~~ and always heard^{it} when a relation
of his ~~the~~ died; and this, which he
had otherwise ~~been~~ ~~known~~ aware of it,
or not.

So much for the Ridicule that
is often excited at the idea of there being
any such thing as Haunted Houses, or of
Ghosts, or any thing of the kind, that
was a kind common among intelligent
people^{in these United States}, when I was a young man, and which
prevails to this day in no small degree;
and ~~by some~~ especially by Pious ^{numbers} ~~men~~ ^{members}
of Christian Churches, whose Religious
tenets are
so founded upon The Holy Bible, ~~which~~
is chiefly a record, a ~~history~~ ^{series}, of
Spiritual Manipulations,

In Europe, and other ~~old~~
long settled portions of our globe, there
is far less incredulity concerning the subject
of "Haunted Houses" &c, of this ~~kind~~
description of Phenomena, for reason - probably -
that permanence of residence ^{on} ~~for~~ the same

on the same premises, in the same dwellings,
and therefore,
especially in part of Royalty, nobility and
Gentry, ^(who most do so) than can ~~possibly~~ be the case in

recently settled countries, or districts.

We are familiar with ^{accounts of} an Imperial
Castle in Germany, that is said to be
haunted by "The White Lady," ^{Malenky's} ~~and which~~ ^{and who also visits others of the Castle of this Imperial Family.}
through I visited this Castle, and found it in

midst of all circumstances that are so still,
~~that~~ it is almost the only ^{residence} one of a
wide vicinity.

Its population being about,
I could be received, and was most kindly so;
~~its population being about~~ and was

there throughout the vast establishment,
that was highly interesting.
~~apparently~~ ~~but~~ especially, the Room,
~~in which a portrait of~~ ⁱⁿ which hangs a
painted portrait of "The White Lady",

which has there hung, for Centuries,
and appears to be as fresh as it could
have been at the time it was painted.

I was opened ^{that} The White Lady herself,
is often seen walking about this house,
and ^{often} visits her Portico, - especially
when a member of The Imperial Family

6
is about to die; of which incident she appears
to have known,

I also made a visit to the famous
"Blyburg". That is a dense Mountain
^{hundred}
of about fifteen feet in height;
~~and~~ about the summit of which,
~~the~~ living species are seen at
night, that are ~~so~~ frequently
so threatening, so terrific in aspect,
that ^{not} a few of them who had come from
far sea, fly from the place with
utmost precipitation.

I spent two nights there, but ~~see~~
nothing unusual appeared, and being
obliged to leave, I did so, with intent
to return to return soon, though I
did not,

A Mayor of ~~the~~ the City of
^(I think it was)
Magdeburg, with whom I travelled
several days, told me he had often
visited the "Blyburg" and with
much that quite confirmed the ~~truth~~
^{generous}
^{opinion} of extraordinary ~~reputation~~
exhibitions

Article to J. C. Munroe of
Methuen, Mass. 14. 89 - about and 4 Shennocks
manuscript, please say so.

I beg leave to enclose the article
to you; if you find it worthy of
a place in your Journal, please
insert it, and send a dozen copies
of it to my address,

Otherwise, please return it to

and oblige your truly,

Jos. P. Hyatt